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Dark Matter: an experimental perspective

CATERINA DOGLIONI [SHE/HER] - LUND UNIVERSITY

MEMBER OF THE ATLAS COLLABORATION AT CERN

Inputs and discussion:

European Strategy PPG BSM/DM/Higgs, Snowmass EF, RF and CF, ATLAS Collaboration, [iDMEu](#) proponents, Antonio Boveia, Boyu Gao, Isabelle John, Matt McCullough, Jocelyn Monroe, Marco Rimoldi, Ulrike Schnoor, Francesca Ungaro, Christoph Weniger, Jodi Cooley, Hugh Lippincott

[@CatDogLund](#)

<http://www.hep.lu.se/staff/doglioni/>



Outline

Introduction from a *particle experimentalist*¹ perspective

Dark matter experiments:

1. Dark matter at accelerators (particle colliders/intensity frontier experiments)

Disclaimer #1: My main expertise is in DM @ particle colliders, so this part will be more detailed than the others

2. Direct detection of dark matter

3. Indirect detection of dark matter (+ cosmic probes)

Synergies and complementarity between these different ways of detecting DM

 ⇒ link to the relevant Snowmass topical group

Disclaimer 2: this talk is not an inclusive talk for DM, but rather a personal perspective of things I've learned along the way as ATLAS Dark Matter Forum/WG organizer && in the European Strategy && in the Snowmass process

¹ for the perspective of a *dark matter experimentalist*, see page 3 of [arXiv:1712.06615](https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.06615)



Why should dark matter be a particle?

Why not?

us & our experiments, made of particles

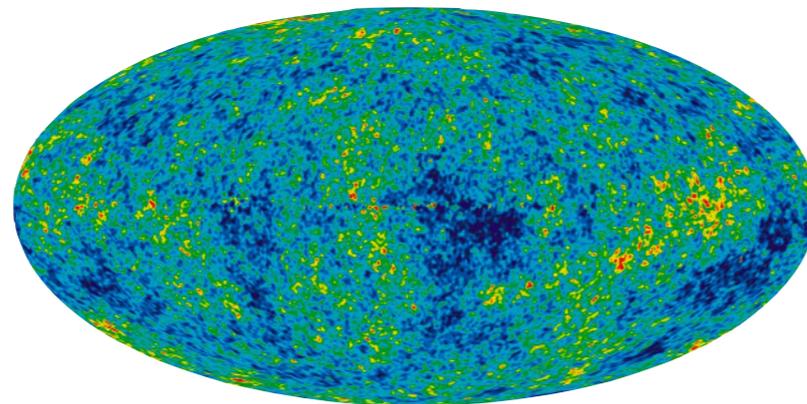
In this talk I will assume Einstein's gravity does not need modifications...

The relic density

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019



Ill. Niklas Elmehed. © Nobel Media.
James Peebles
Prize share: 1/2



<https://sci.esa.int/s/Wnqq4bw>

*“for theoretical discoveries
in physical cosmology”*

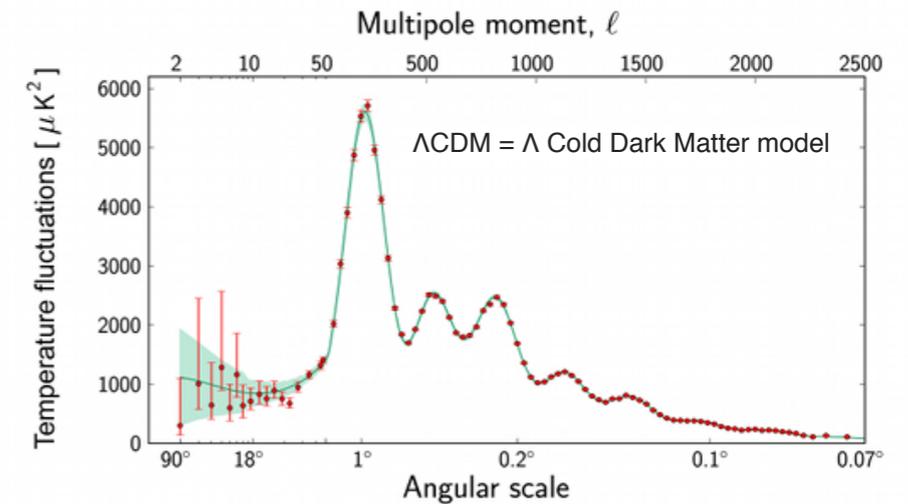
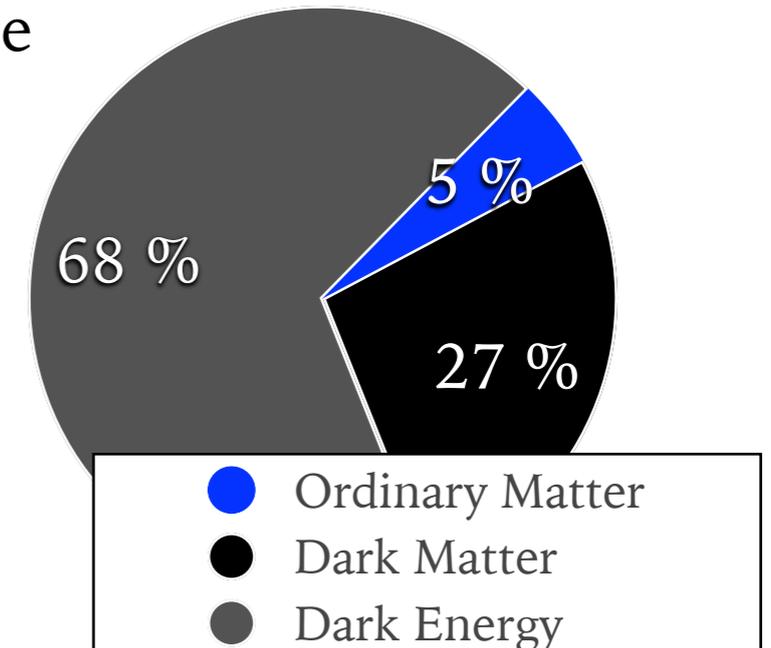


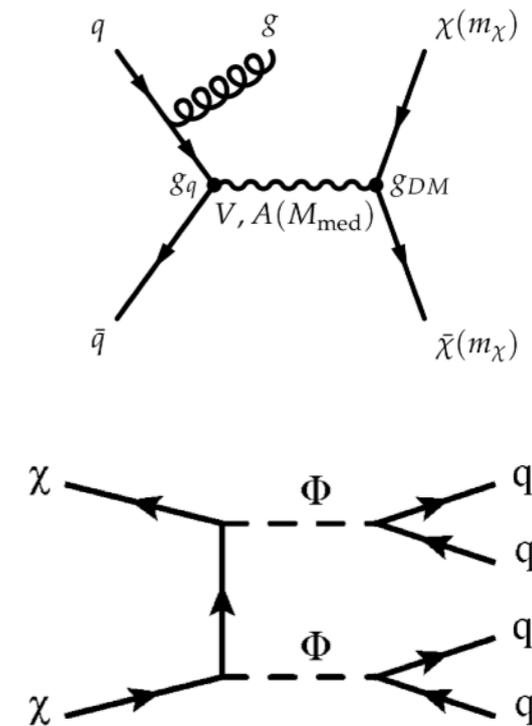
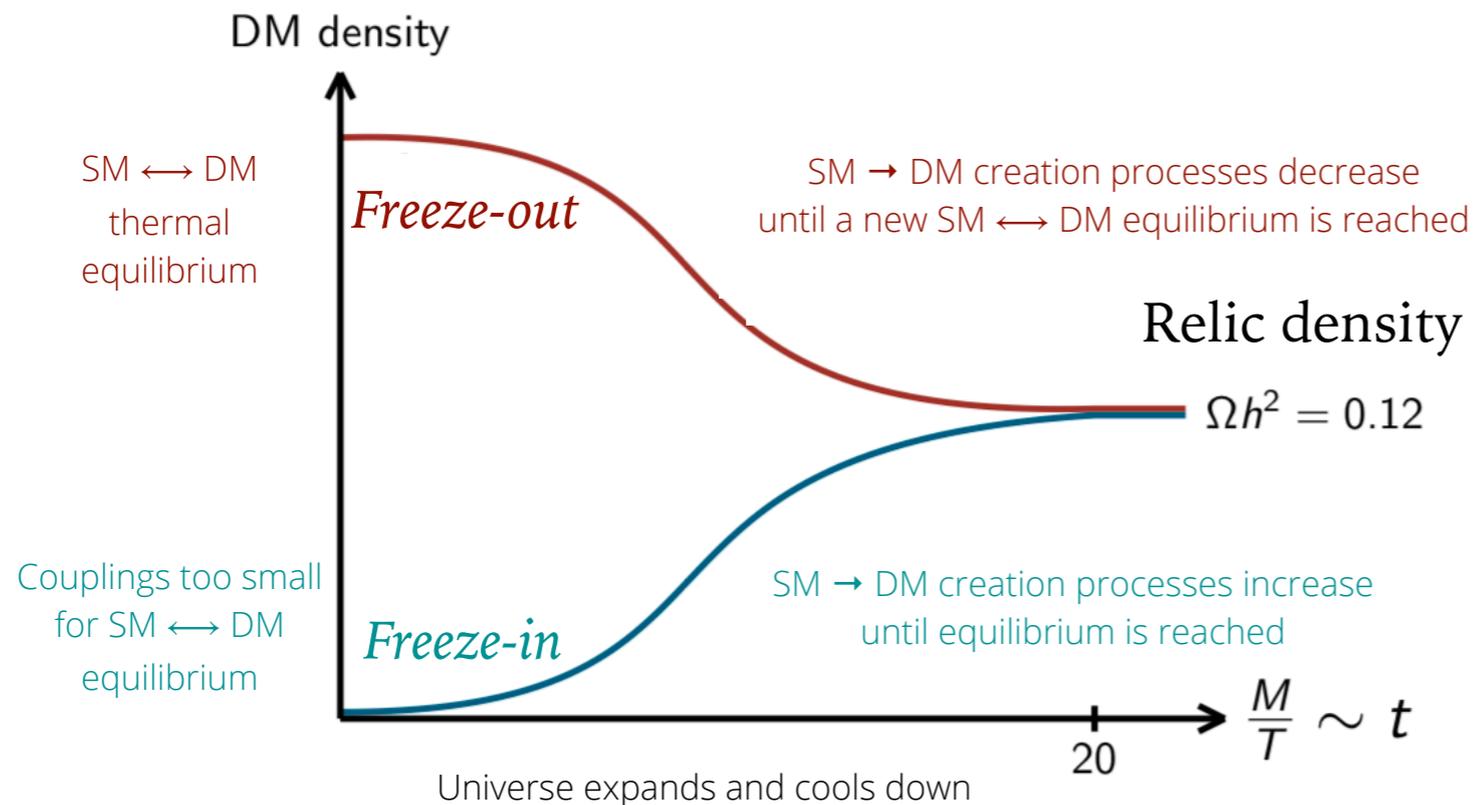
Image: Planck/NASA/ESA

Dark matter constitutes most of **the** matter in the universe

The DM we measure today [relic DM density] already points at some properties of DM candidates (e.g. dark, stable)
can it guide us further?



How did the relic density come to be?



Examples of DM \leftrightarrow SM processes

[Isabelle John's thesis](#)

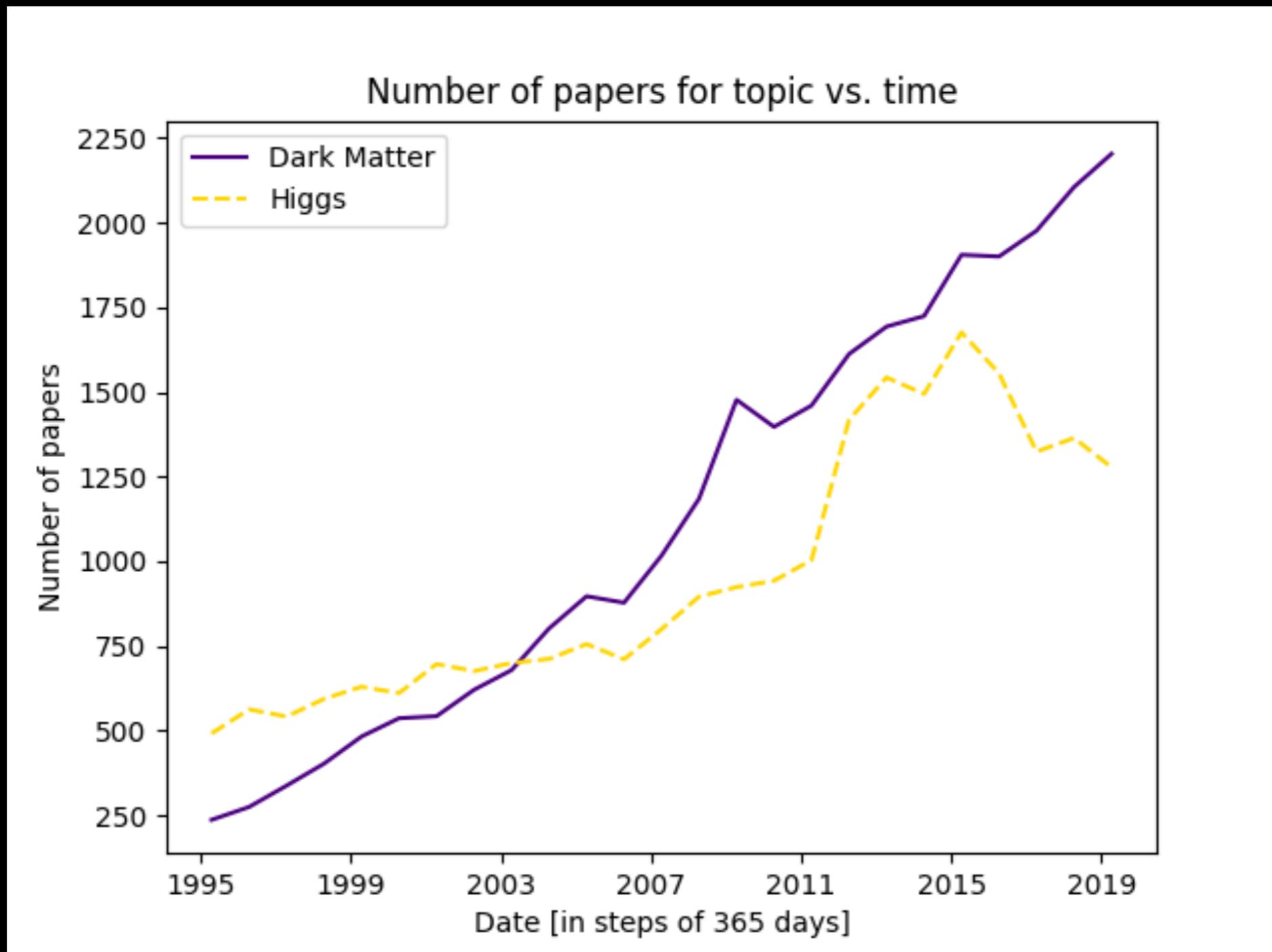
Note: simplified picture, for a more complete one see <https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.07442>

Commonality of many of these models: they require some form of interaction (it can be more or less significant) between ordinary matter and dark matter

interaction \Leftrightarrow particles & forces



DM is a much-sought particle



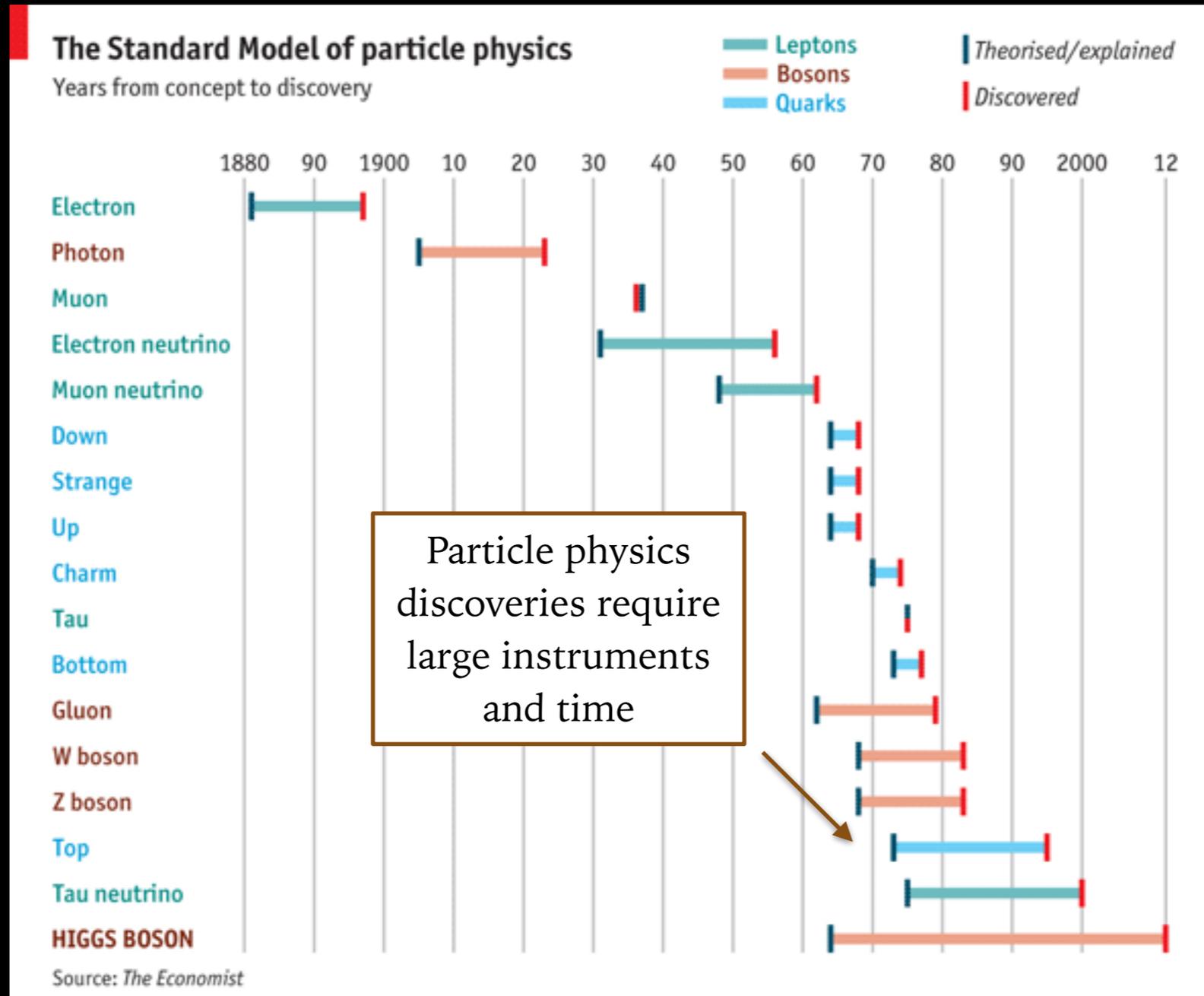
<https://benty-fields.com/trending>

Papers on the arXiv with the words in the title or abstract

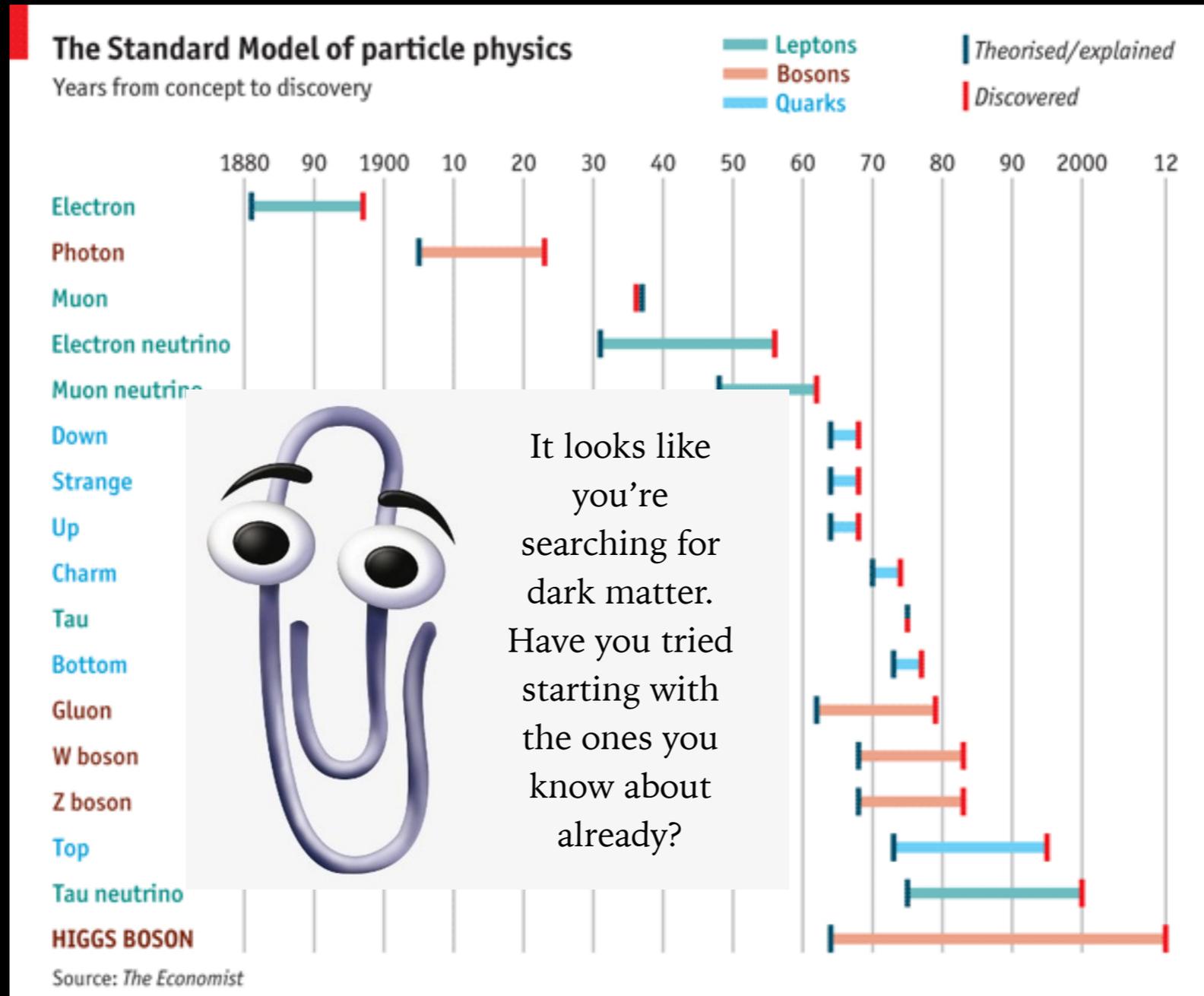
Credits for finding it: [Xenon1T](#), [Twitter](#)

Disclaimer: website not to be used as input by funding agencies

Finding new particles takes time

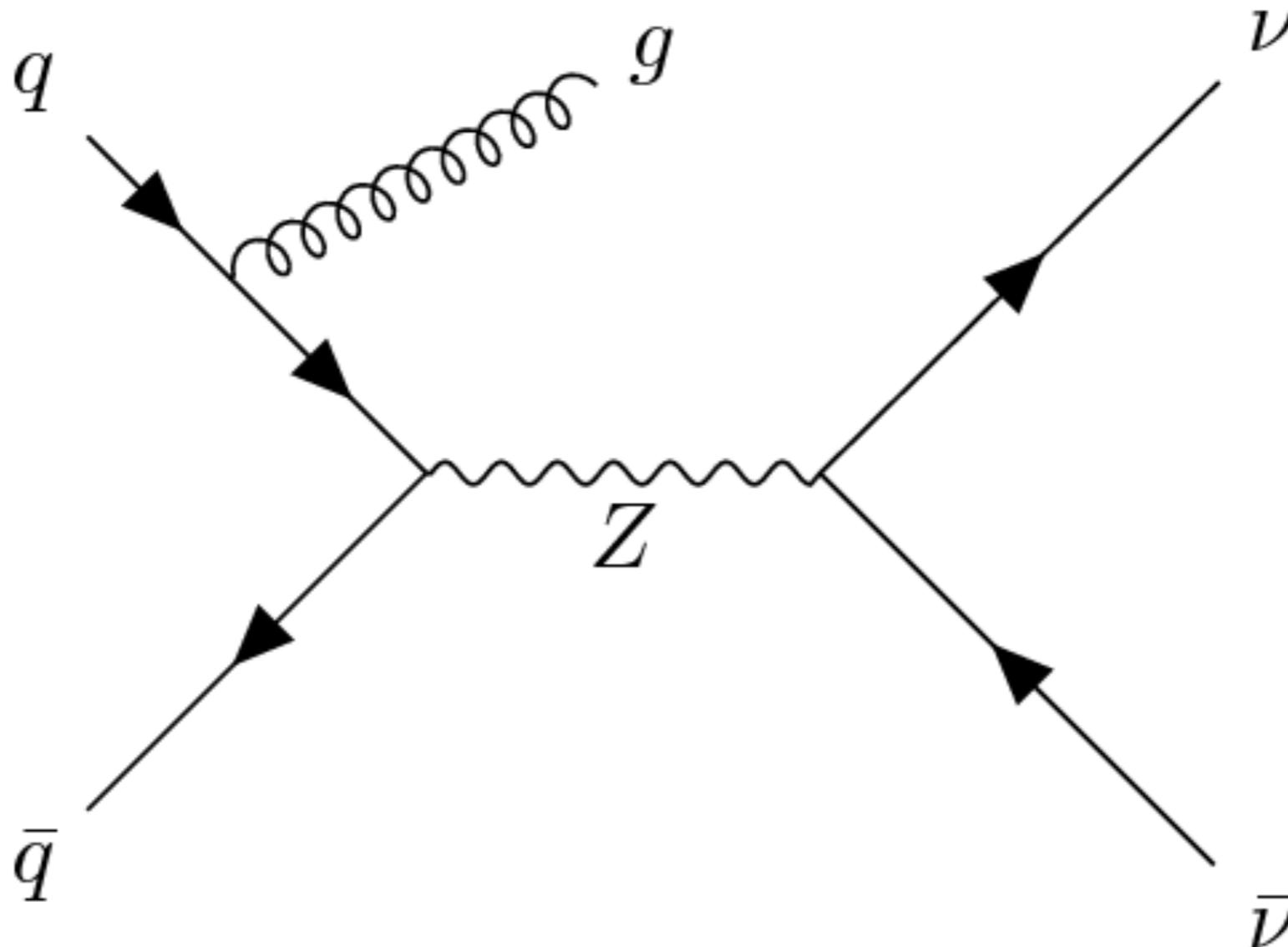


Finding new particles takes time



Generic production of invisible particles

Production of invisible particles is common in the Standard Model...

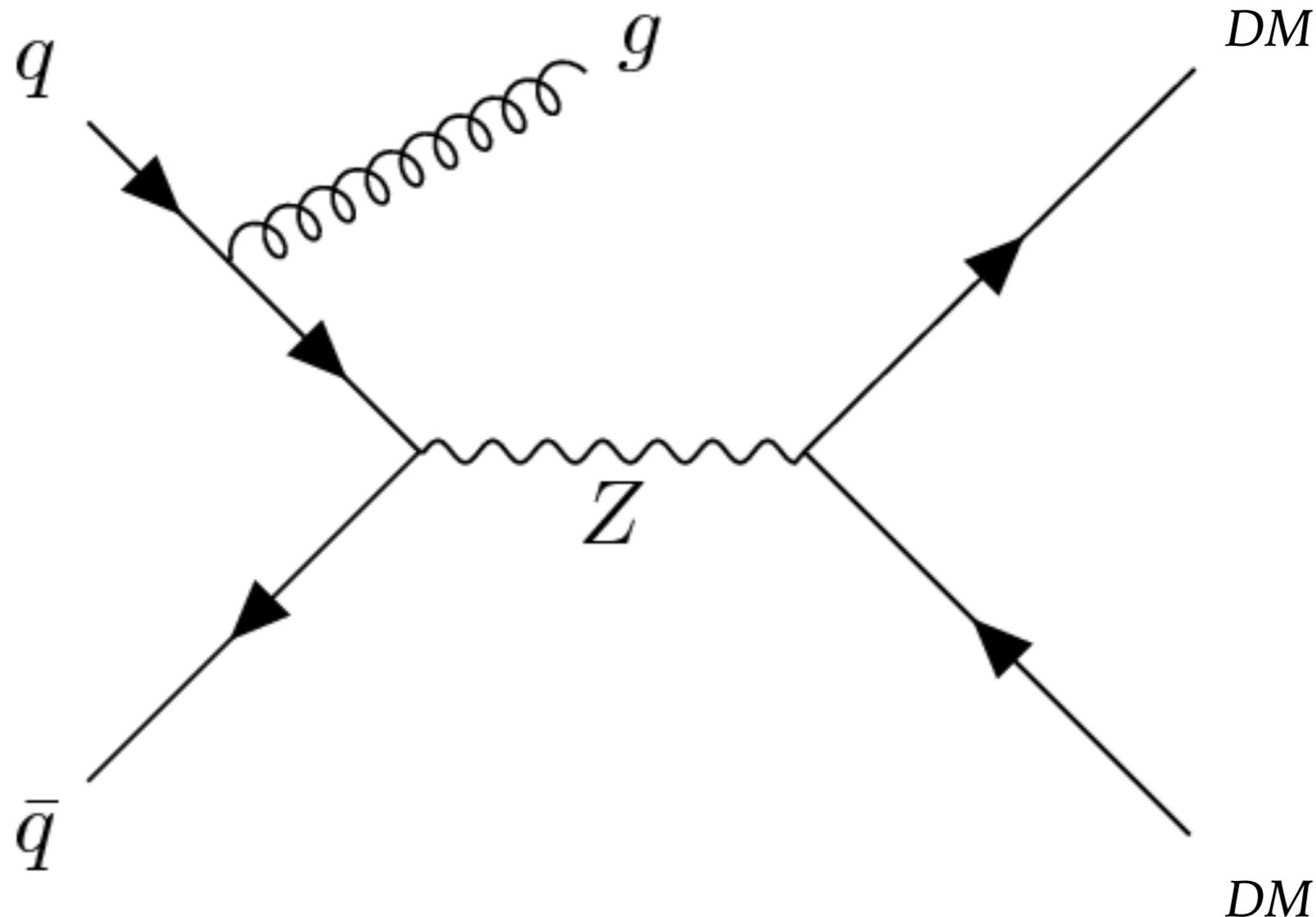


[Eur. Phys. J. C 77 \(2017\) 765](#)



Generic production of dark matter?

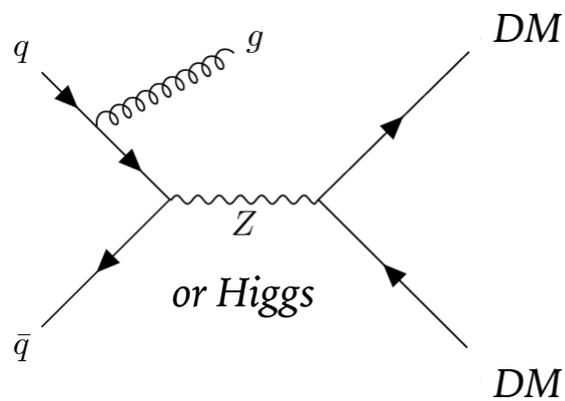
What other invisible particles (that are suitable thermal relics) could we produce?



[Eur. Phys. J. C 77 \(2017\) 765](#)



Weakly Interacting Massive Particles



The **minimal** option to make up 100% of the relic:

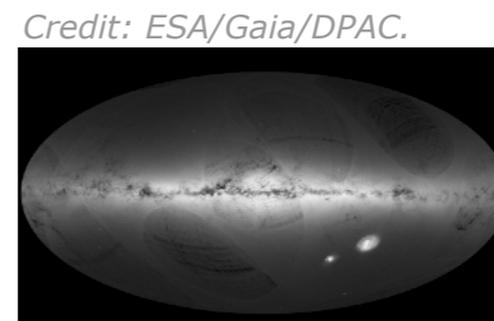
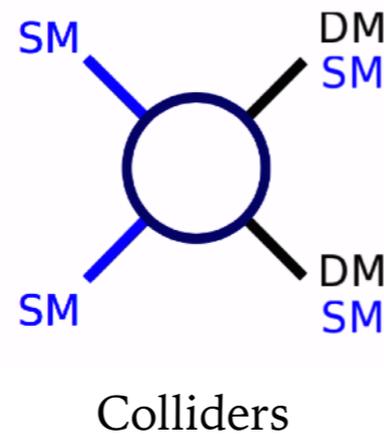
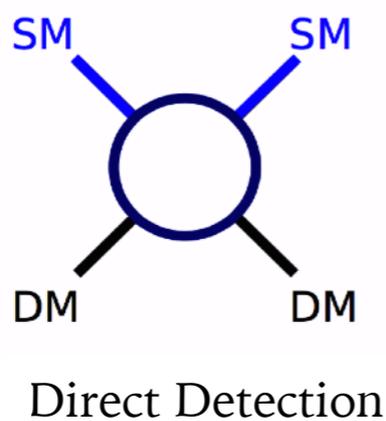
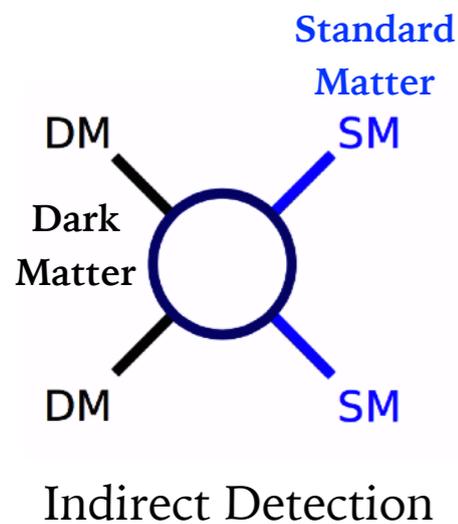
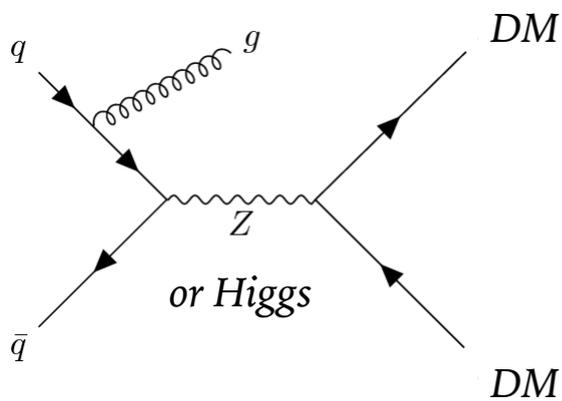
- only add one particle to the SM
- stable **TeV-scale** particle with **weak-force-sized** interactions
 - Weakly Interacting Massive Particle
- that particle conveniently appears in many SUSY models that also solve other problems in particle physics
- beautiful and simple, almost *miraculous!*



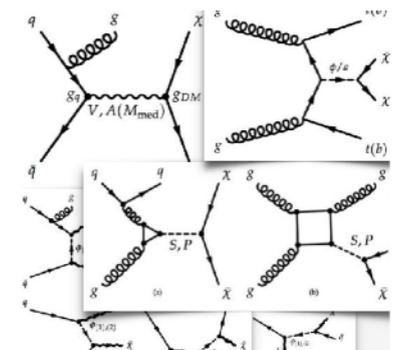
Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

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- stable **TeV-scale** particle with **weak-force-sized** interactions
 - Weakly Interacting Massive Particle
- that particle conveniently appears in many SUSY models that also solve other problems in particle physics
- beautiful and simple, almost *miraculous!*
- Experimental “advantage”: many experiments can see it in different ways

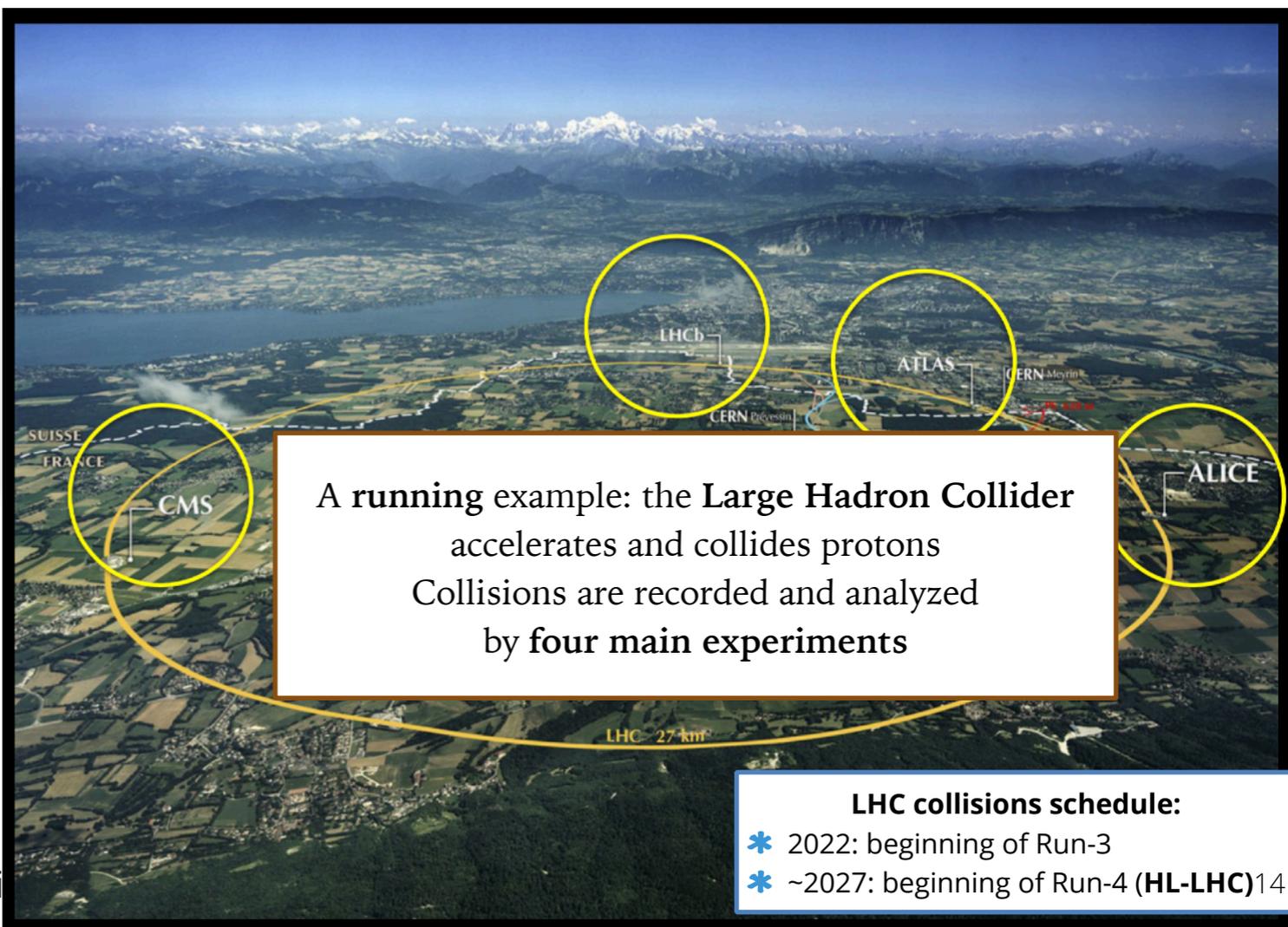
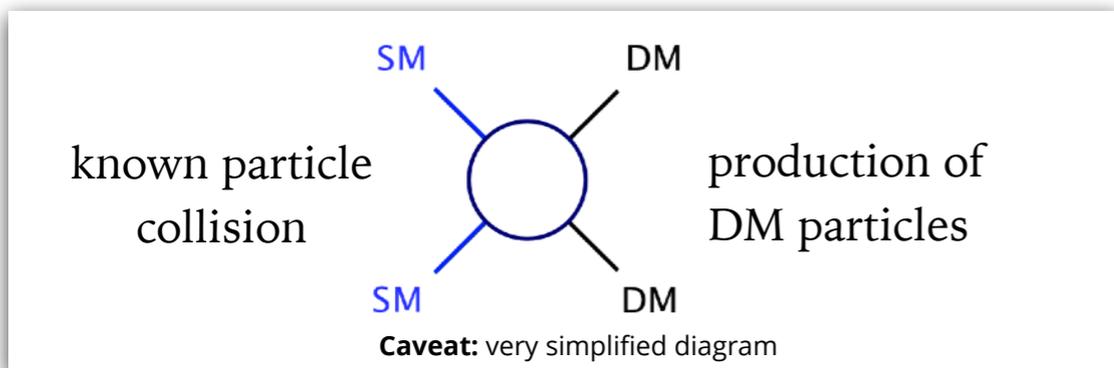


Astrophysics



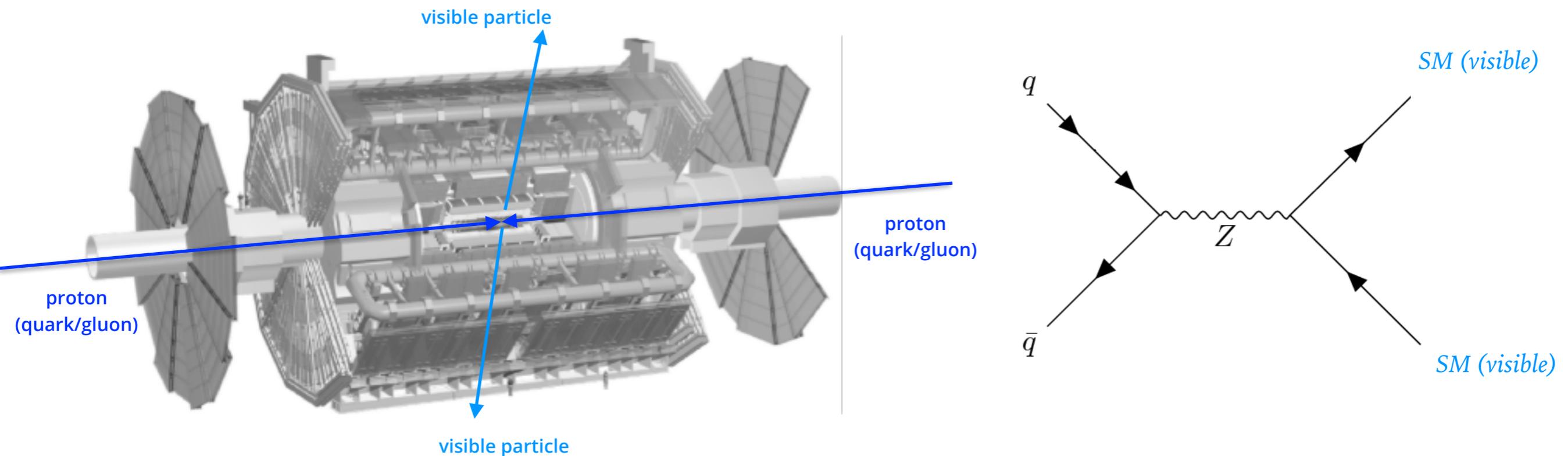
Dark matter Invisible particles at colliders

- Starting from our baseline assumption: WIMP DM
 - interacts with SM** particles → we can **produce and detect it** at



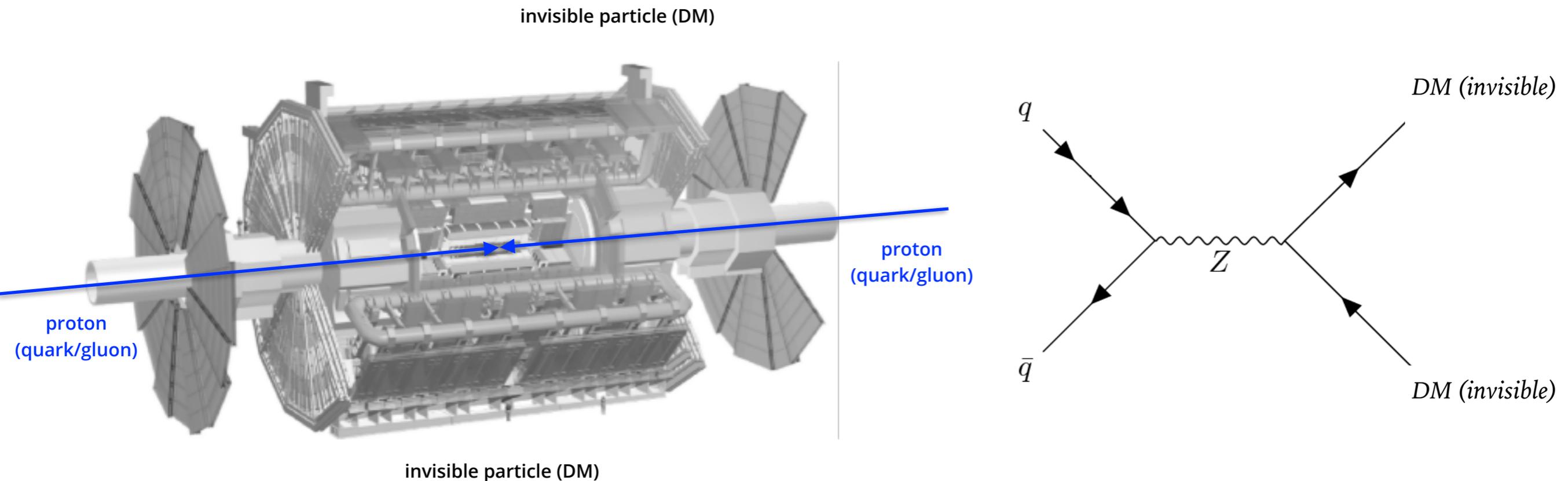
Searches for ~~DM~~ invisible particles at colliders

Detector covers all the solid angle and catches ~all visible particles



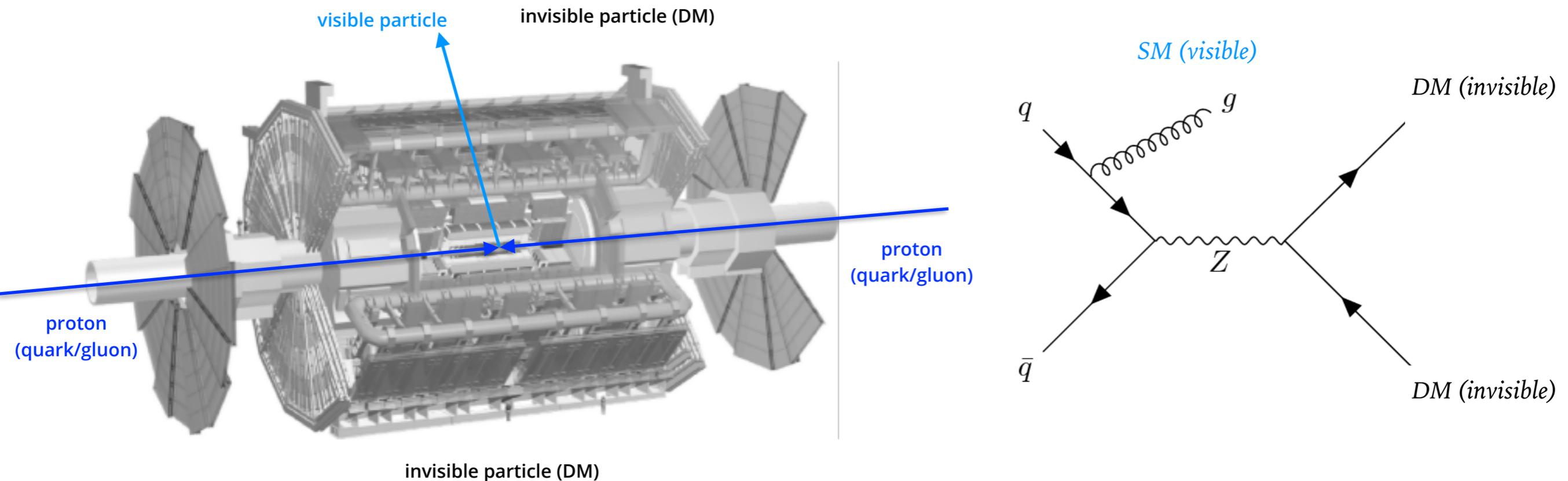
Searches for ~~DM~~ invisible particles at colliders

Dark matter doesn't interact significantly with our detectors \rightarrow invisible



Searches for ~~DM~~ invisible particles at colliders

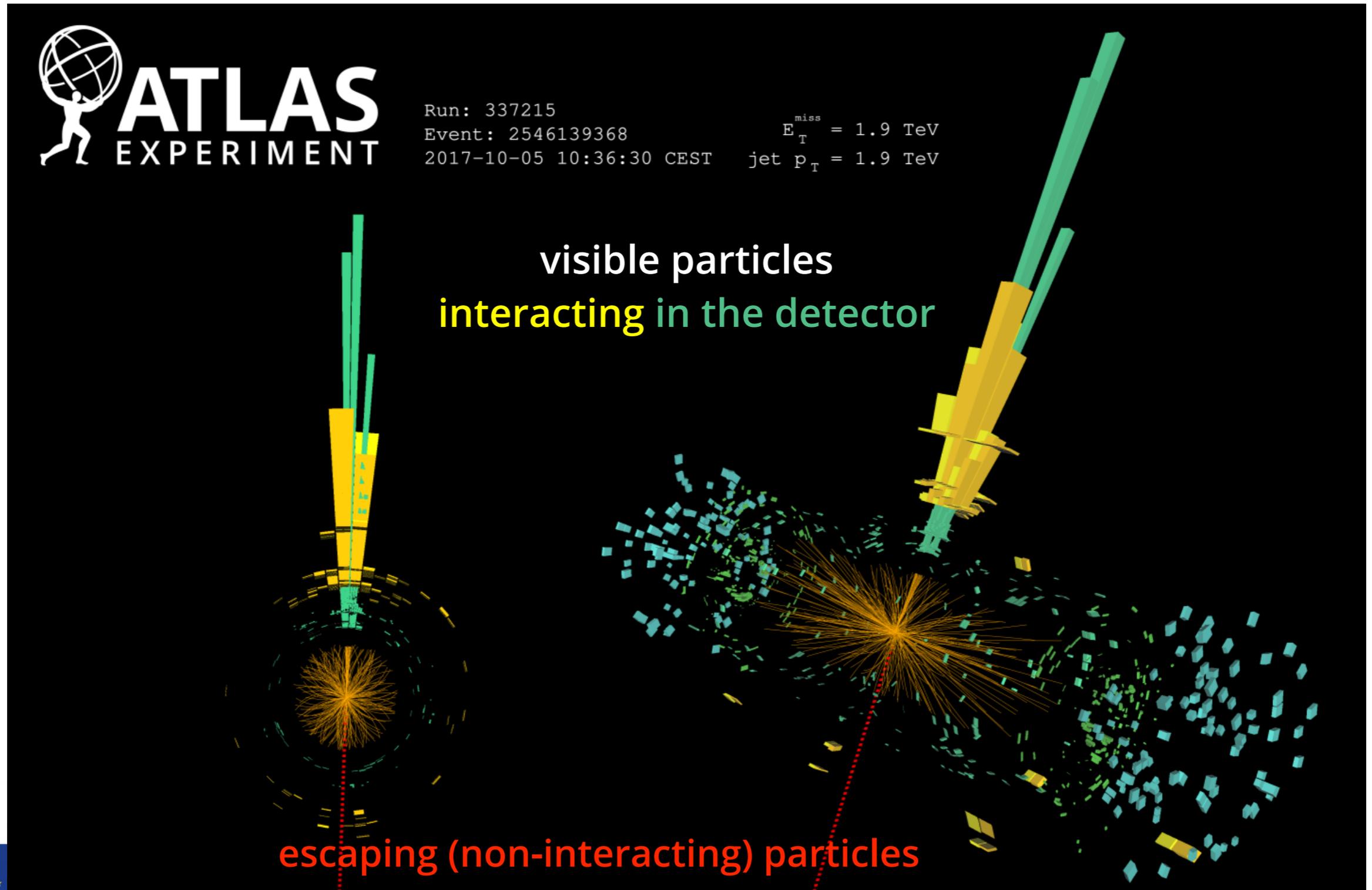
Dark matter doesn't interact significantly with our detectors → invisible



Signature of invisible particles
(like Dark Matter):

missing (transverse) momentum (E_T^{miss})

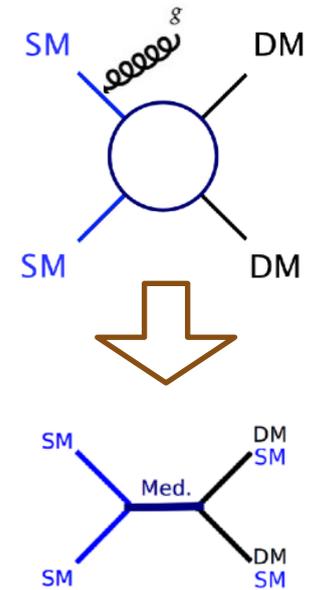
A “monojet event” at ATLAS



A generic search for DM: “ $X+MET$ ”

ISR (jet, photon, V boson...) + MET signature

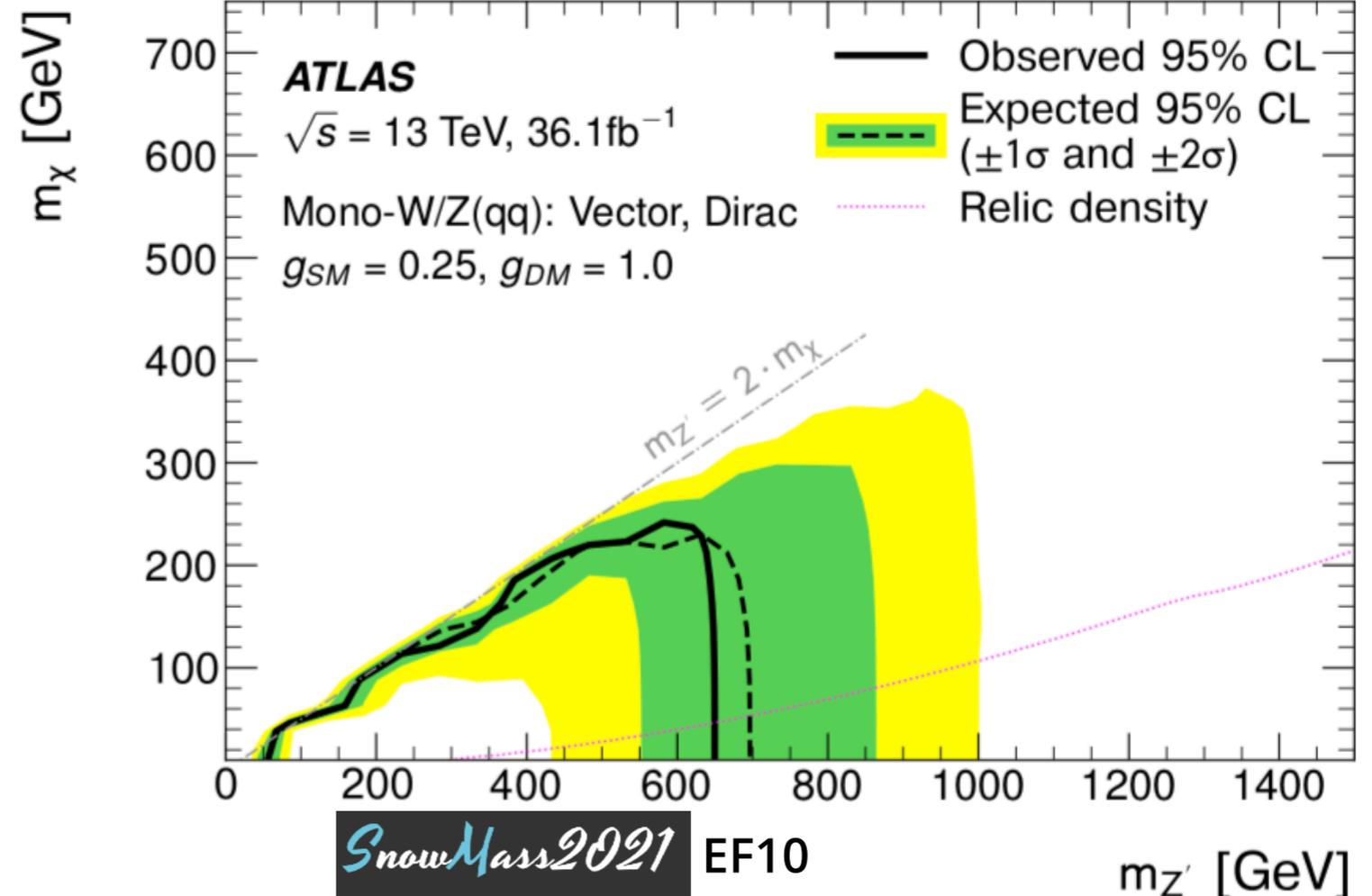
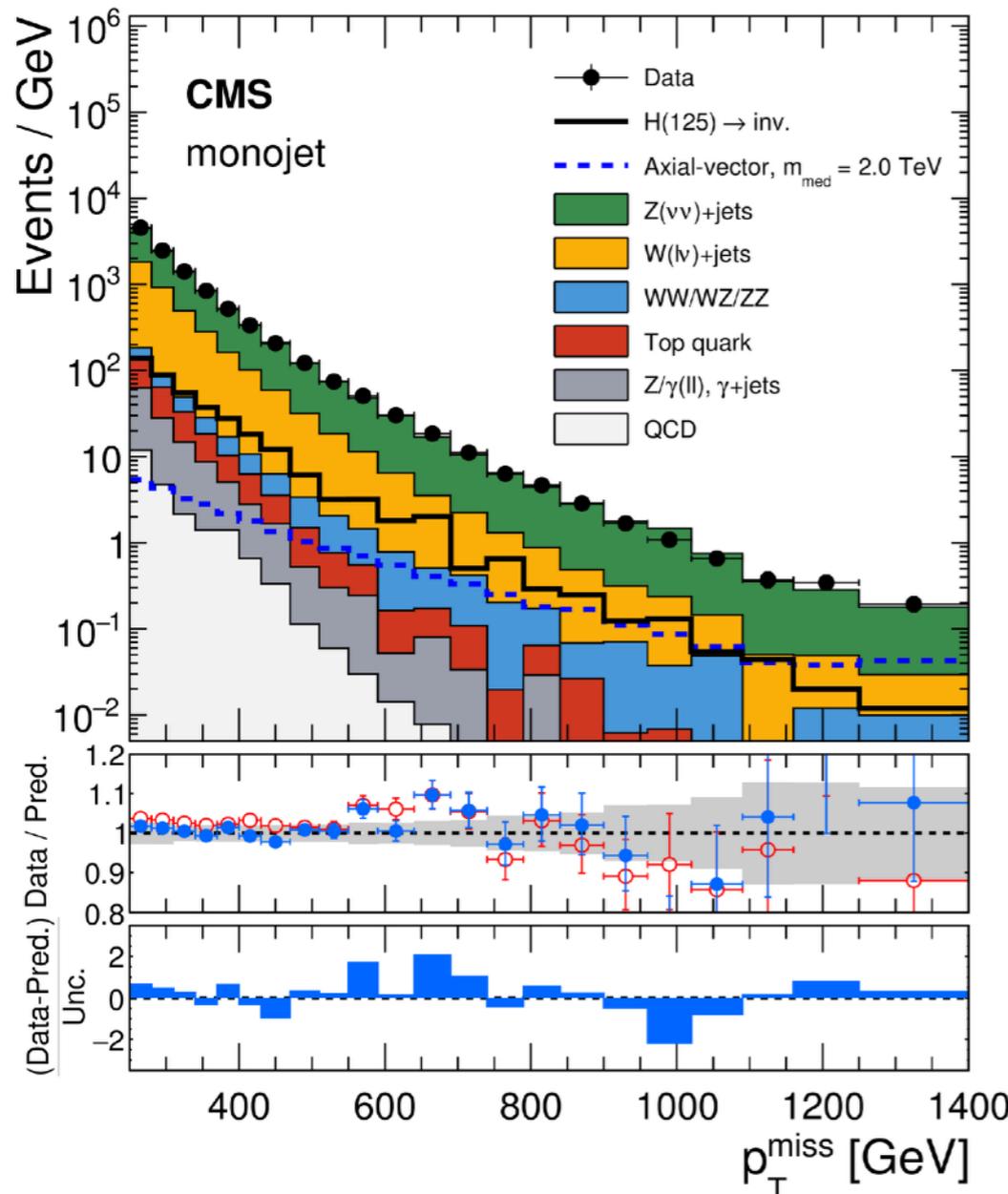
- Background shapes need precise theory predictions [EPJC 2017 77:829](https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.0829)
- Results can be interpreted in a variety of models - here: vector mediator



[Phys. Rev. D 97, 092005 \(2018\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.11471)

35.9 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)

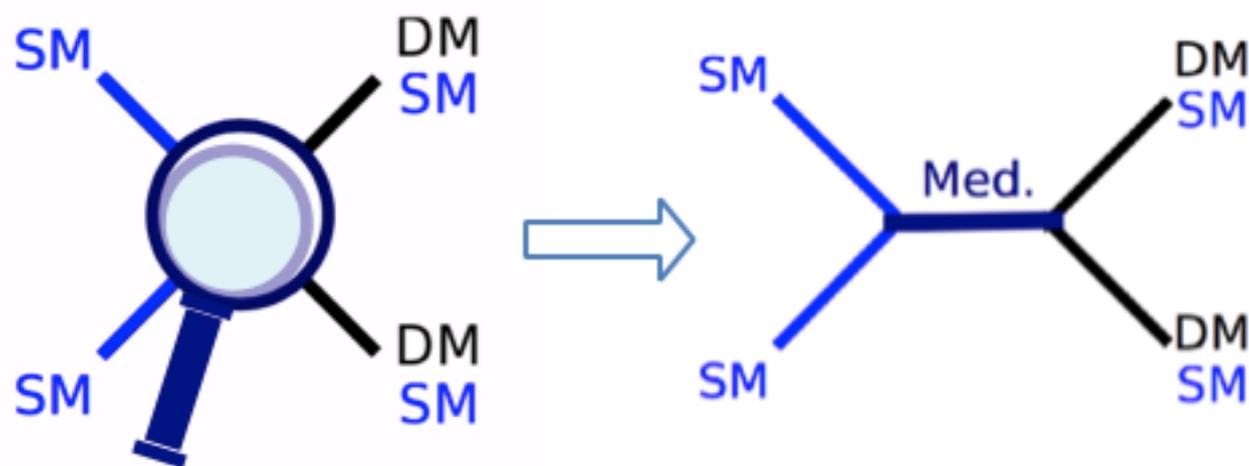
[arXiv:1807.11471](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.11471)



Is this the only way we can look for WIMP DM? No!

If there's a force other than gravity, there's a **mediator (/portal)**,
and the LHC could **detect** its decays into **visible particles**:
simplified/portal models are popular collider & accelerator search benchmarks

SnowMass2021 EF10
SnowMass2021 RF6



Physics of the Dark
Universe
Volume 27, January 2020, 100371



Dark Matter benchmark models for
early LHC Run-2 Searches: Report of the
ATLAS/CMS Dark Matter Forum

LHC Dark Matter Forum & Working Group

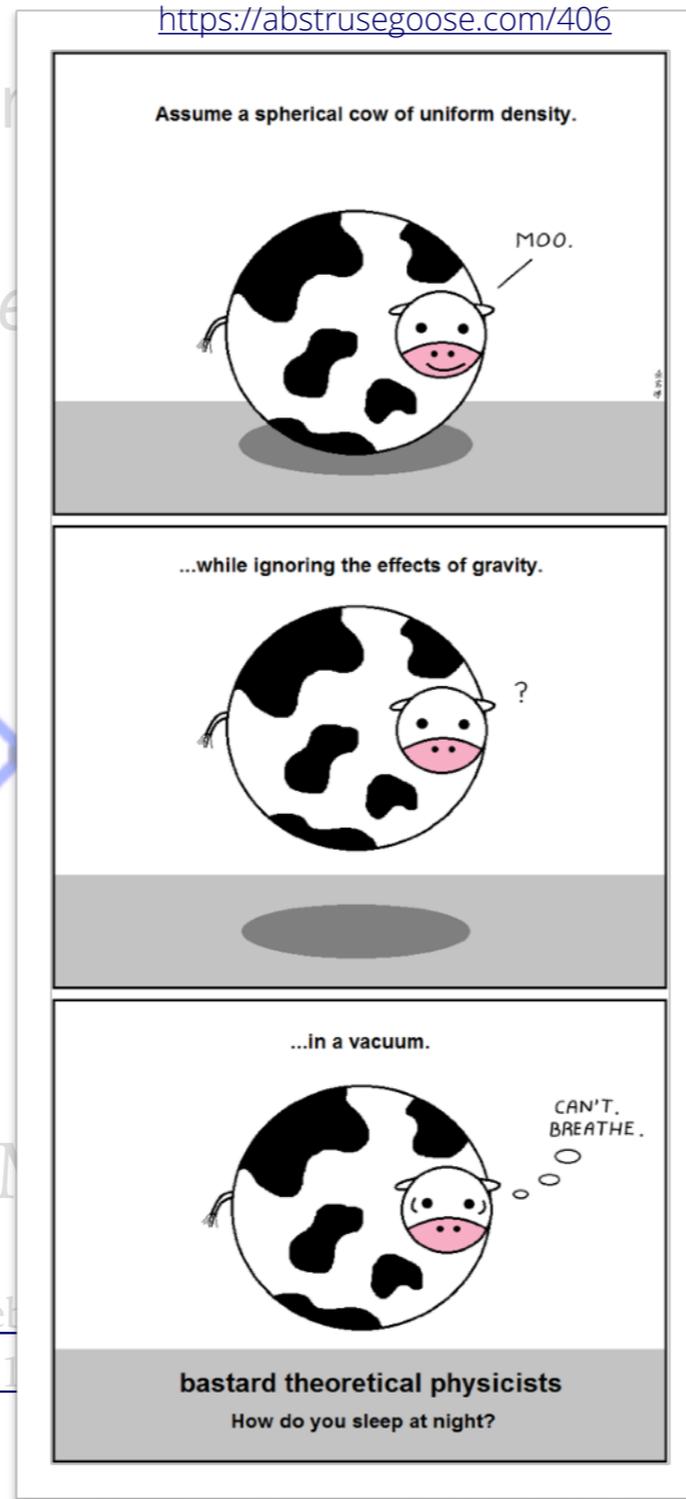
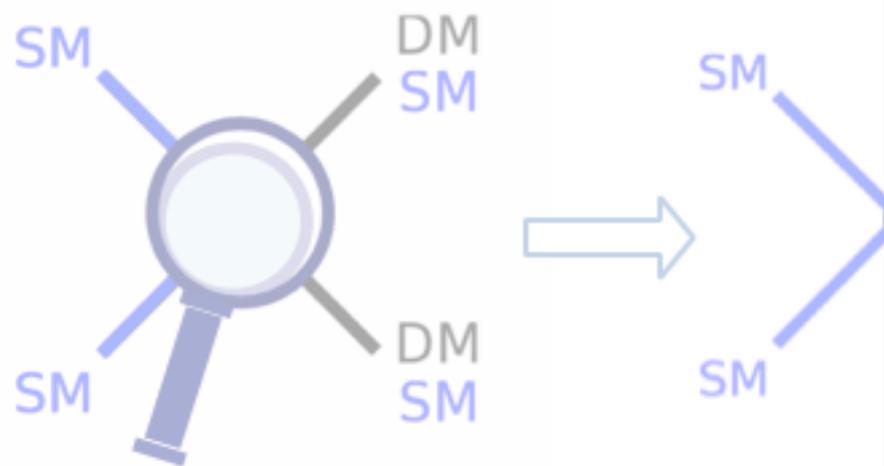
<https://lpsc.web.cern.ch/content/lhc-dm-wg-dark-matter-searches-lhc>

Phys. Dark Univ. 26 (2019) 100371 & references within, [Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. 68:429-459, 2018](#)



Beware of simple models...

If there's a force other than gravity
and the LHC could see it, then
simplified/portal models



is a mediator (/portal),
to **visible particles**:
search benchmarks

Physics of the Dark
Universe
Volume 27, January 2020, 100371



Matter benchmark models for
LHC Run-2 Searches: Report of the
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Working Group

[matter-searches-lhc](#)
[v. Nucl. Part. 68:429-459, 2018](#)

LHC Dark M

<https://lpsc.web>

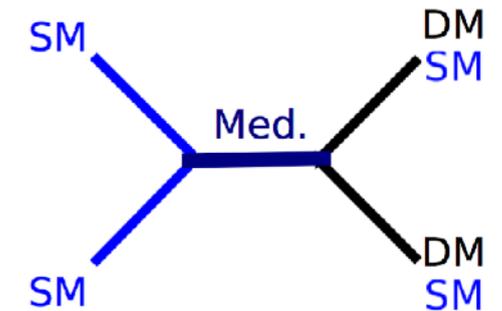
Phys. Dark Univ. 26 (2019) 1



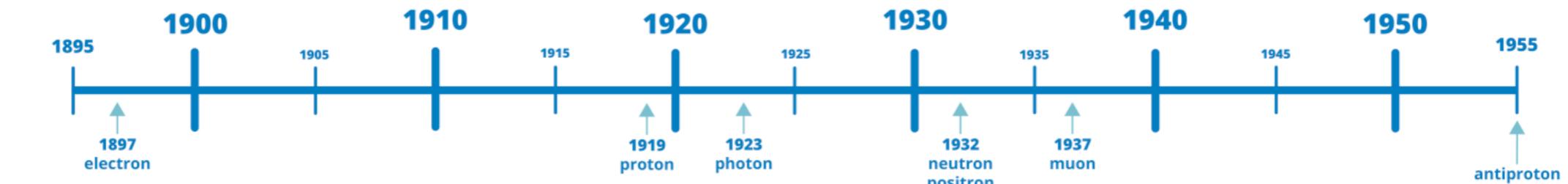
...but not all hope is lost!

“Why should we choose/believe the simplest models?”
“Do we think DM is all made of a single (WIMP) model?”

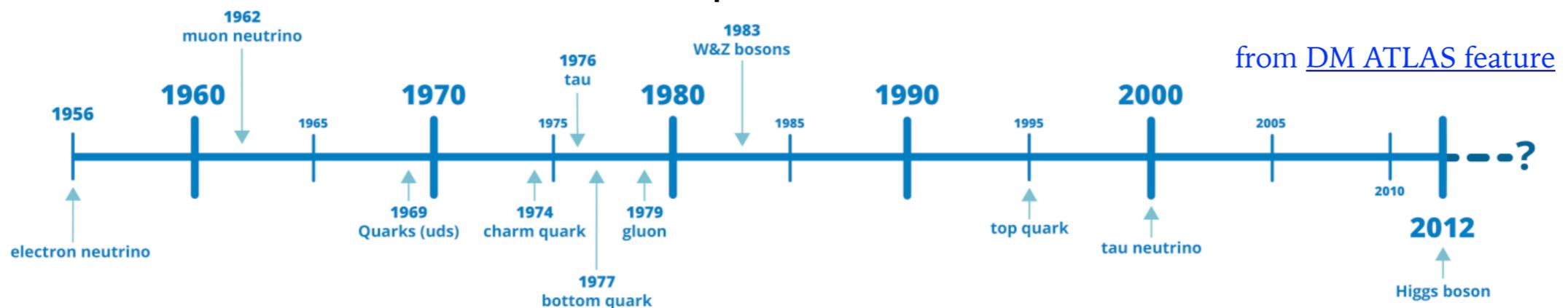
(not really...see dark sectors later!)



Key particle discoveries



- **Lesson from SM:** most common particles discovered first



- Even simple models can encapsulate **relevant experimental characteristics** representing wider classes of theories

as long as we are aware that they can be more rare than what we choose as example

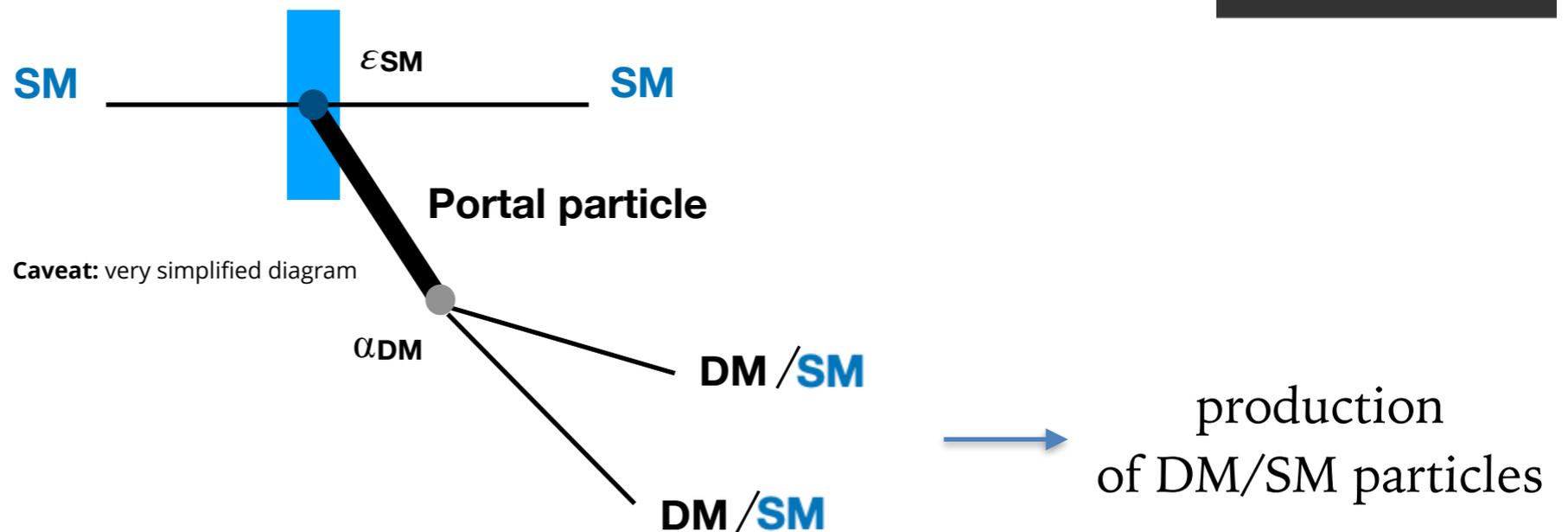
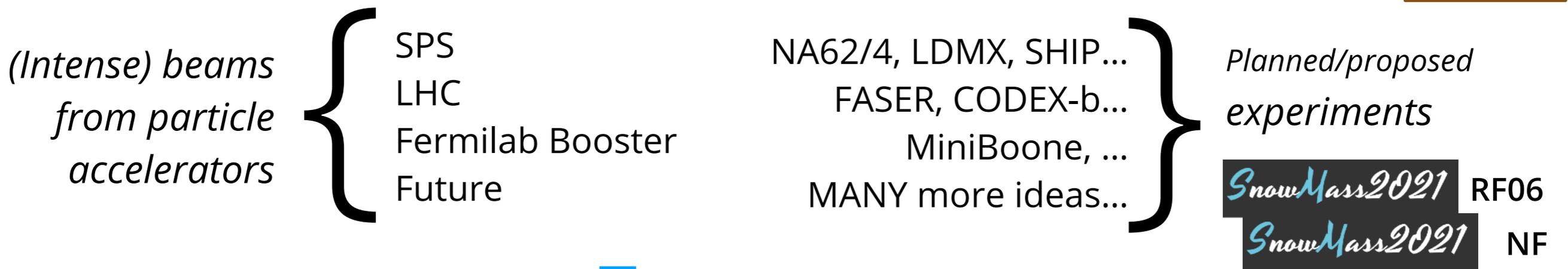


Beyond WIMP DM → beyond high-energy colliders

DM models with **light** particles && **very feeble interactions** w/SM benefit from high intensities, not only high energies

- Starting from our baseline assumption: DM
 - interacts with SM** particles → we can **produce and detect it** at

Link to Suchita's CPM talk



Can we discover/rule out DM at accelerators in the next 50 years?



Can we discover/rule out DM at accelerators in the next 50 years?

(Not because of this incident,
this is here to avoid singling out theorists in jokes)

Rip 'Sparky'
29-4-16

Goodnight sweet prince

Can we discover/rule out DM at accelerators in the next 50 years?

🔥 **Hot take** 🔥: not with colliders/accelerators alone!



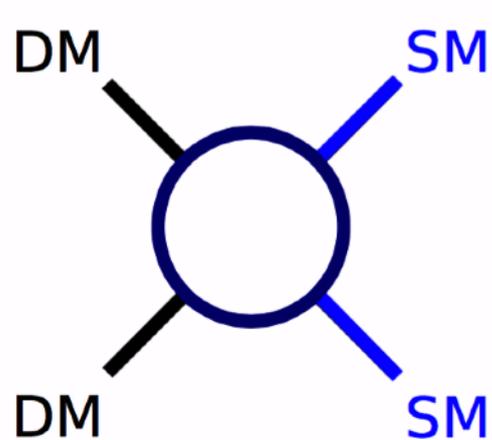
Particle accelerators, direct and indirect detection

- **Reason #1:** there are DM models that are not accessible at accelerator energies / intensities(*SnowMass2021* CF01-03 & Chanda's talk)

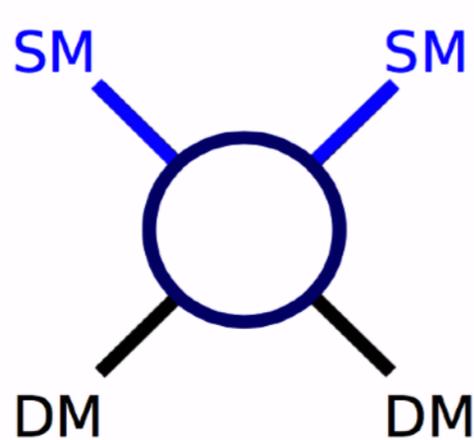


Particle accelerators, direct and indirect detection

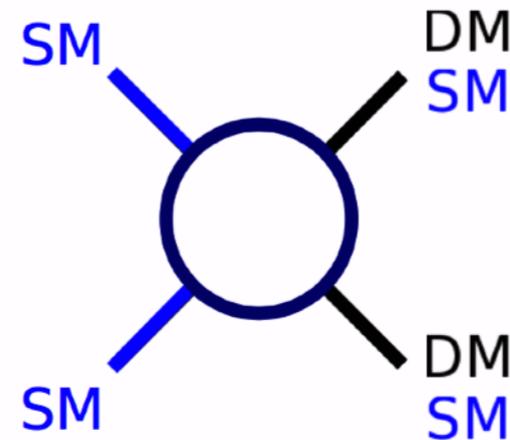
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- **Reason #2:** DM discoveries need complementary experiments that involve DM with **cosmological origin**
 - Direct detection can **discover DM that interacts** inside the detector
 - Indirect detection can see **annihilating/decaying DM** through its decays



Indirect Detection



Direct Detection

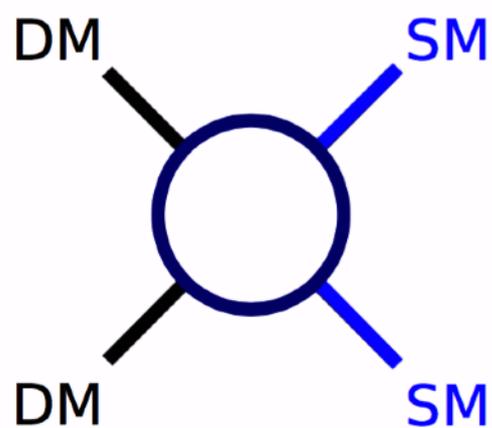


Particle Accelerators (colliders & extracted beam lines)

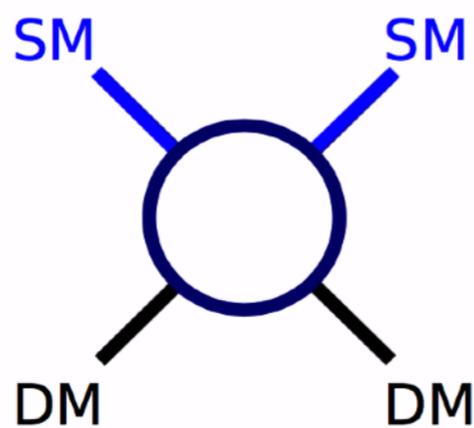


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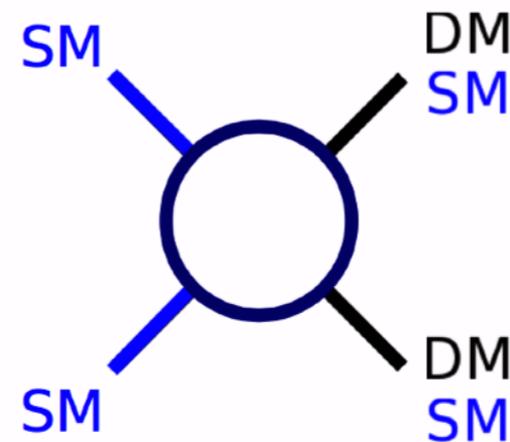
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 - Direct detection can **discover DM that interacts** inside the detector
 - Indirect detection can see **annihilating/decaying DM** through its decays
 - Accelerators/colliders can produce DM and **probe the dark interaction**



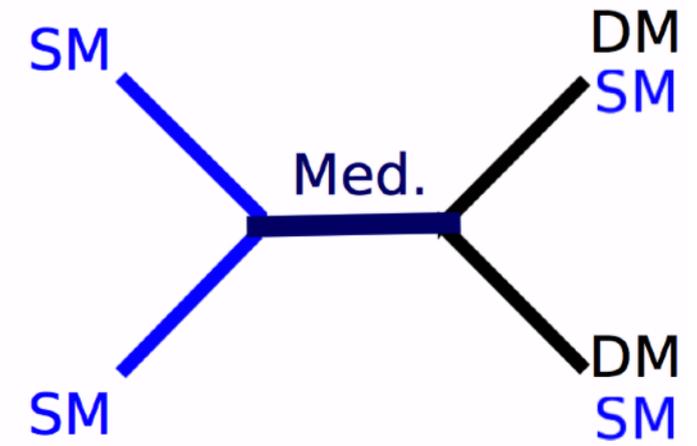
Indirect Detection



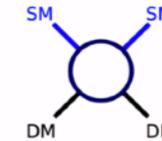
Direct Detection



Particle Accelerators (colliders & extracted beam lines)

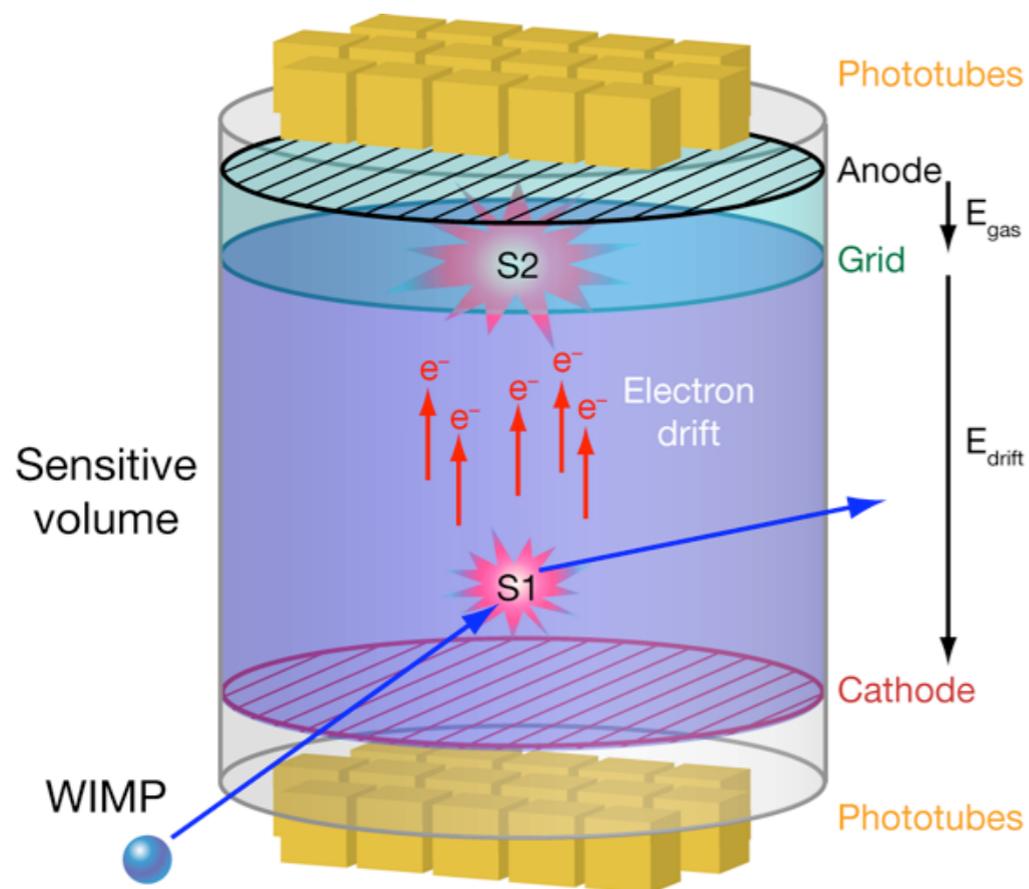


Direct detection experiments: examples



XENON/LZ

Large volumes (order: meters)

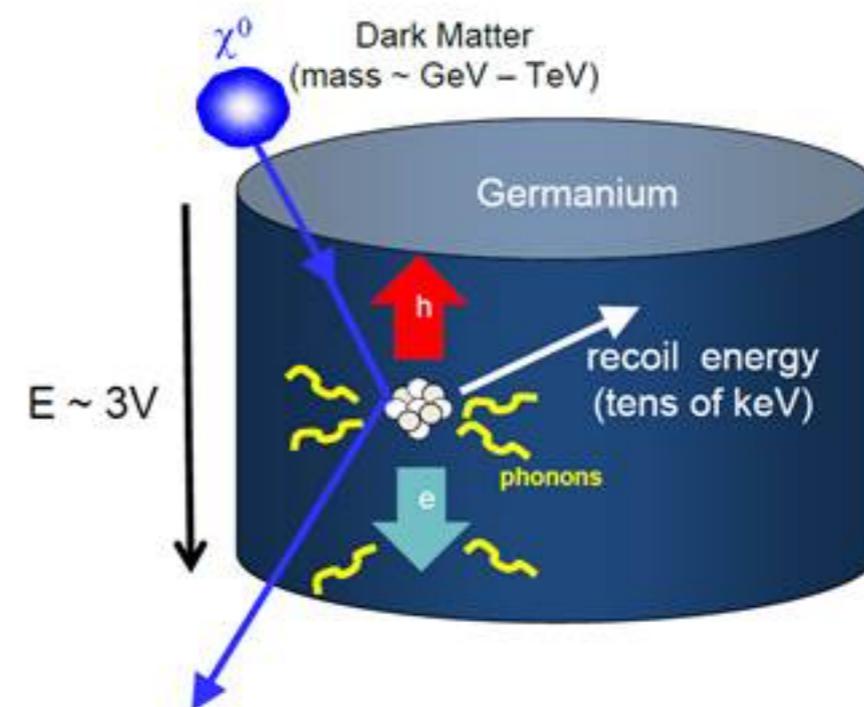


<http://www.xenon1t.org>

<https://lz.lbl.gov>

CDMS

Smaller volumes, lower threshold
(order: centimeter-meter)



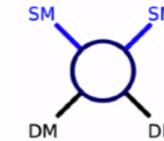
<https://www.slac.stanford.edu/exp/cdms/>

Many more experiments operational/planned for this decade:
from Generation-2 to Generation-3



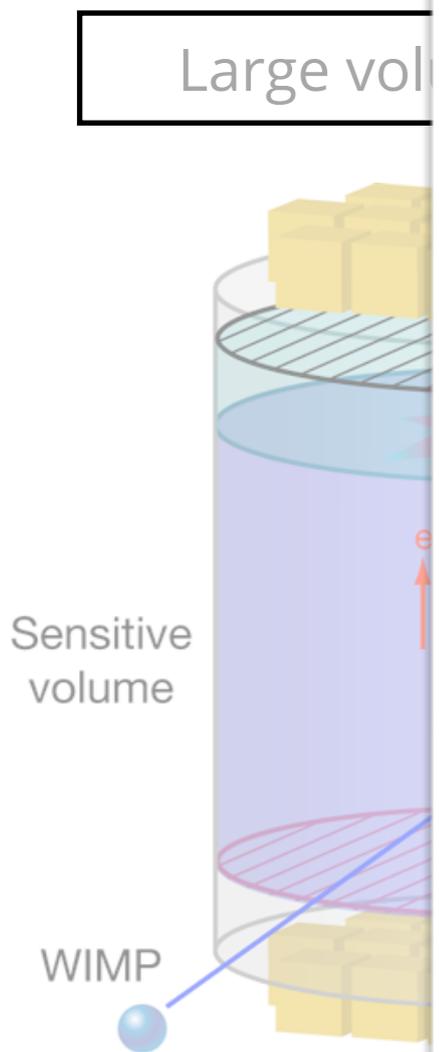
SnowMass2021 CF1

Direct detection experiments: examples

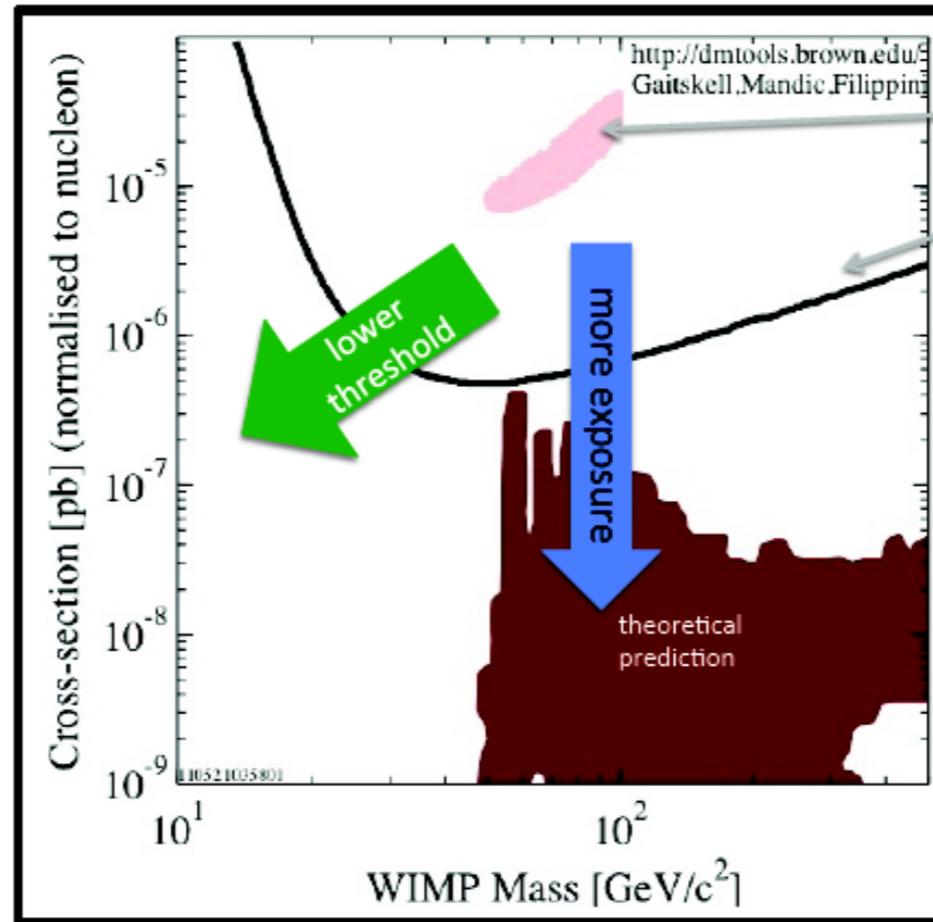


XENON/LZ

CDMS



Exclusion Plot – Comparison of Results



Raimund Strauss, MPI Munich

8

Lower threshold (re-meter)

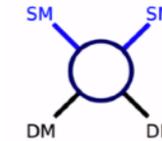


<http://dmtools.brown.edu/>
www.brown.edu/exp/cdms/

Many more experiments operational/planned for this decade:
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Direct detection for very light DM



“Traditional” DM-SM recoil direct detection searches **lose sensitivity** to low-DM masses, **but...**

- detectors can be made **more sensitive** to lower thresholds (e.g. phonon-based calorimeters)

[F. Petricca's talk @ GGI 2019](#)

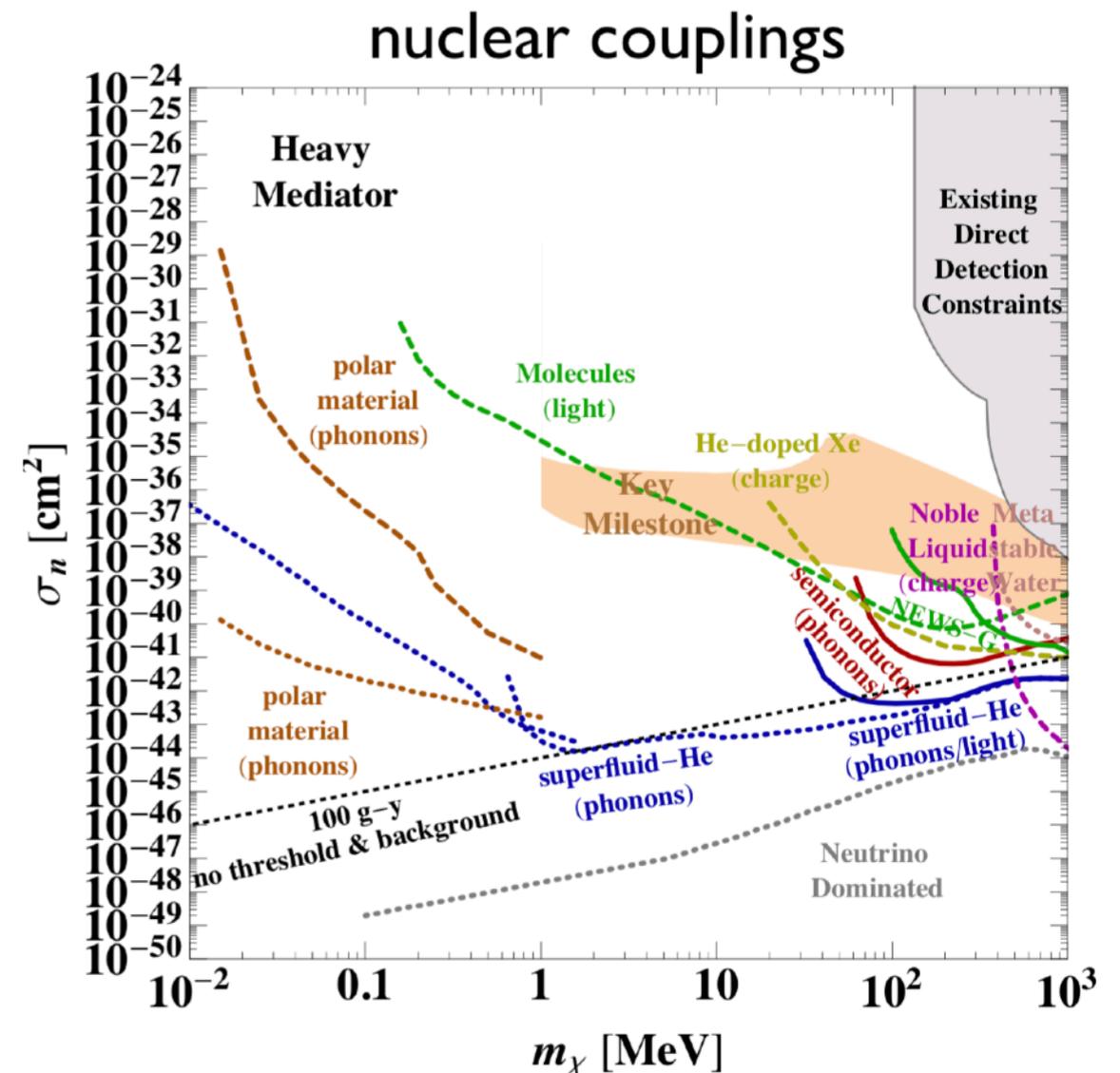
- subdominant effects** can enhance

“kick” from DM E.g. [arXiv:1702.04730](#),
[1707.07258](#), [1905.00046](#),
[1810.07705](#), [1810.10543](#)...

- can explore **new materials & detectors** → collaboration of **astro/ particle physics & solid state physics**

- Including **quantum sensors**

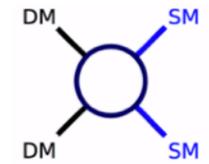
E.g. [arXiv:1709.07882](#), [CPM Session #77](#)



[BRN Report](#)



SnowMass2021 CF1



Indirect Detection experiments: examples

Dark Matter annihilates in the GC / dwarf galaxies to a place
photons, which are detected by Fermi, HESS, ...
some particles an experiment

where to find DM:

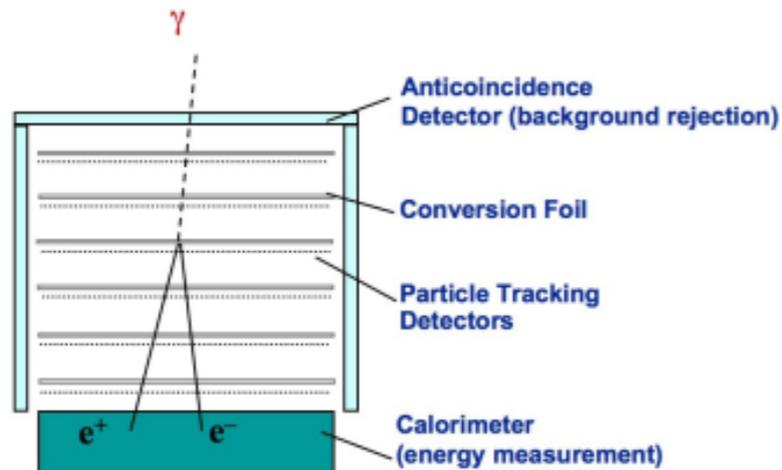
galaxy surveys *SnowMass2021* CF3
 (e.g. LSST, SKA,...)

(also able to probe properties of DM & test DM models)

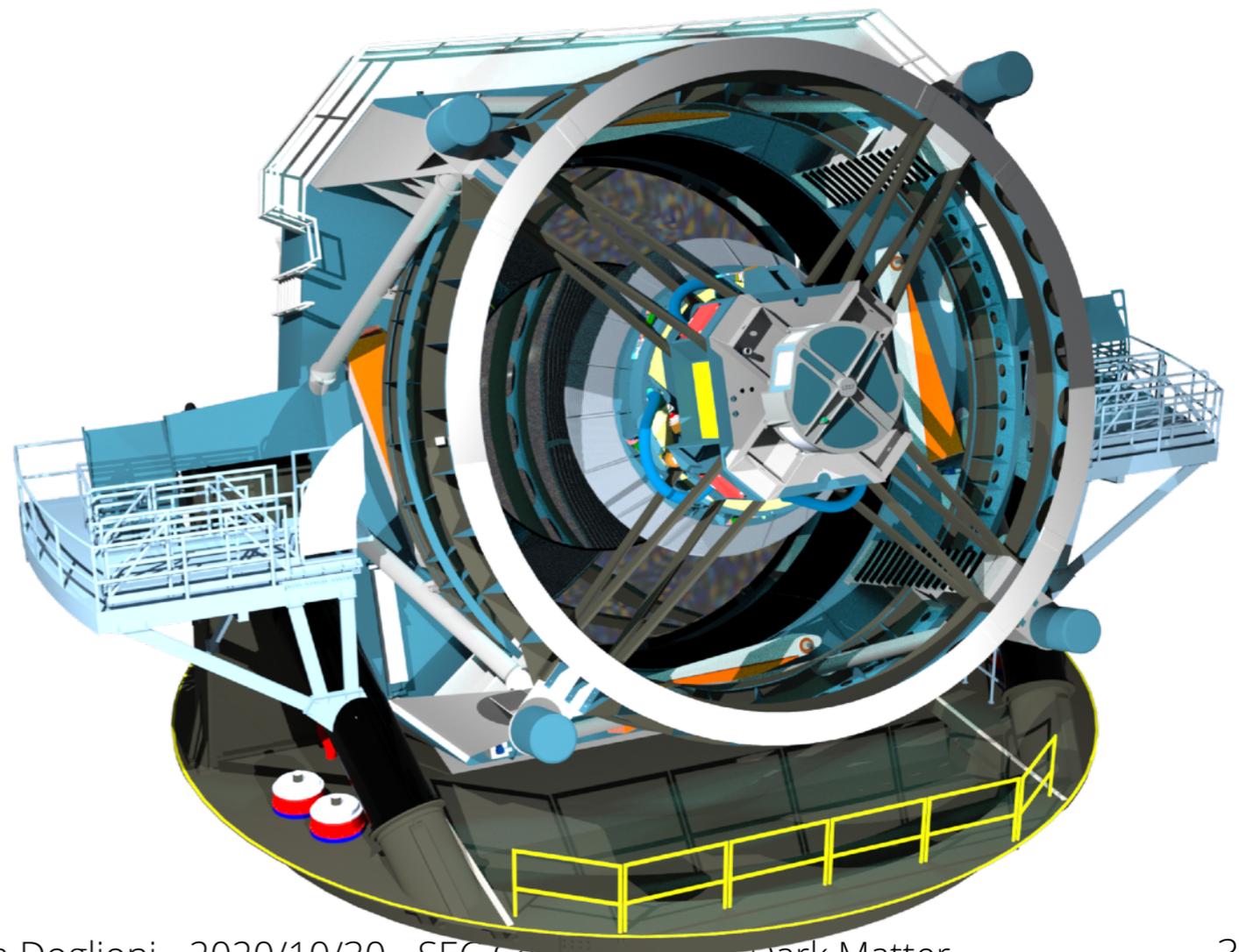
how to detect DM decays:
indirect detection experiments
 (e.g. Fermi-LAT, CTA,...)

Fermi Large Area Telescope

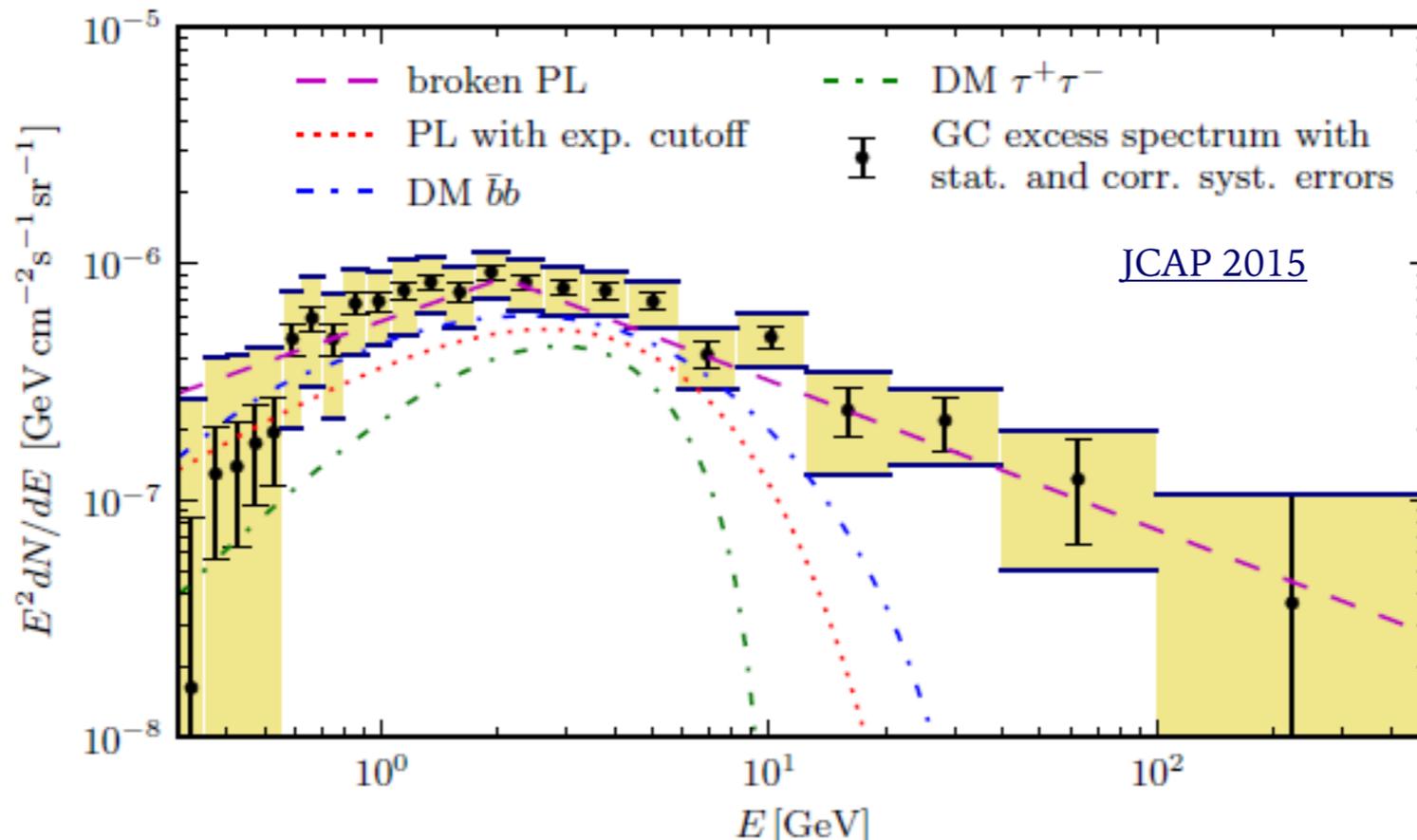
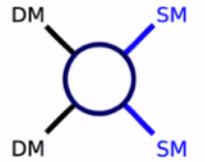
<https://www-glast.stanford.edu/>



SnowMass2021 CF1



Indirect Detection example/excess: Fermi-LAT



Astrophysics > High Energy Astrophysical Phenomena

Dark Matter Strikes Back at the Galactic Center

Rebecca K. Leane, Tracy R. Slatyer

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 241101 \(2019\)](#)

SnowMass2021

CF1-3

Many possibilities for interpretation, floor still open!



Looking for rarer DM (examples from direct detection)

- Major updates to direct/indirect detection experiments planned:

- in terms of **detectors**

SnowMass2021 CF1

- in terms of **reduction of challenging backgrounds**

J. Phys. G43 (2016) 1, 013001& arXiv:1509.08767

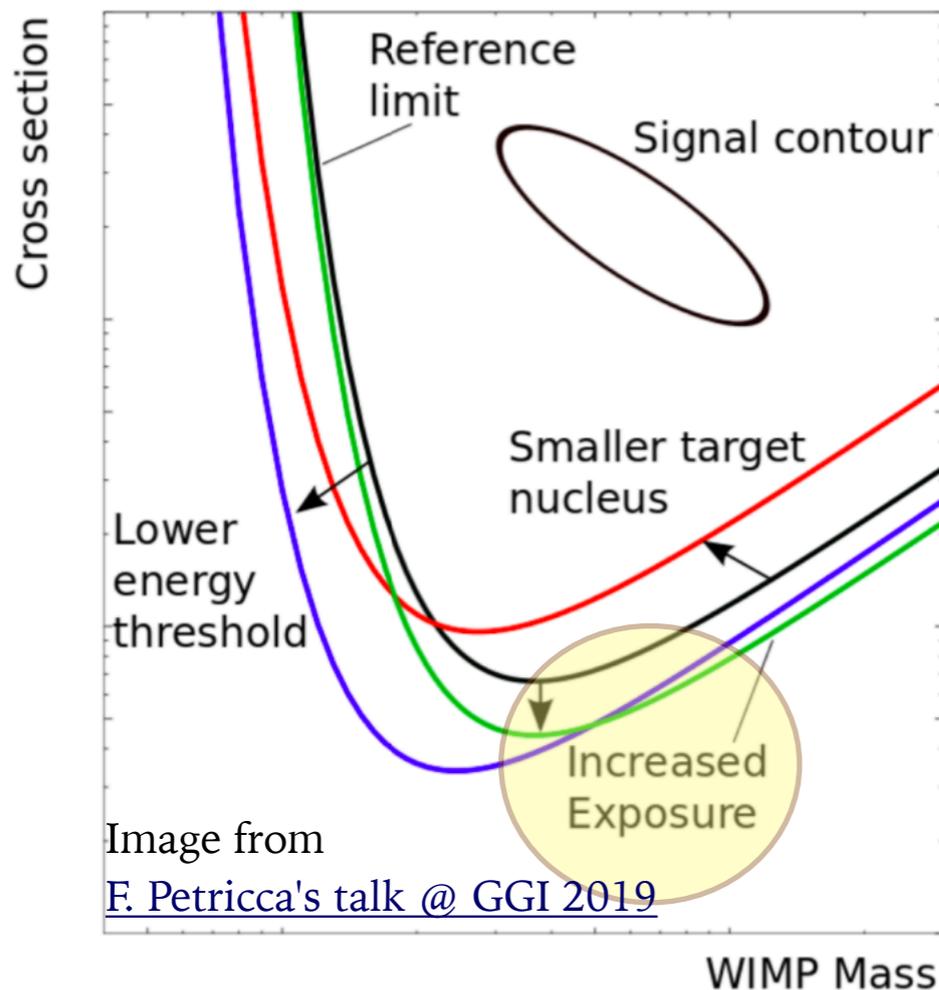
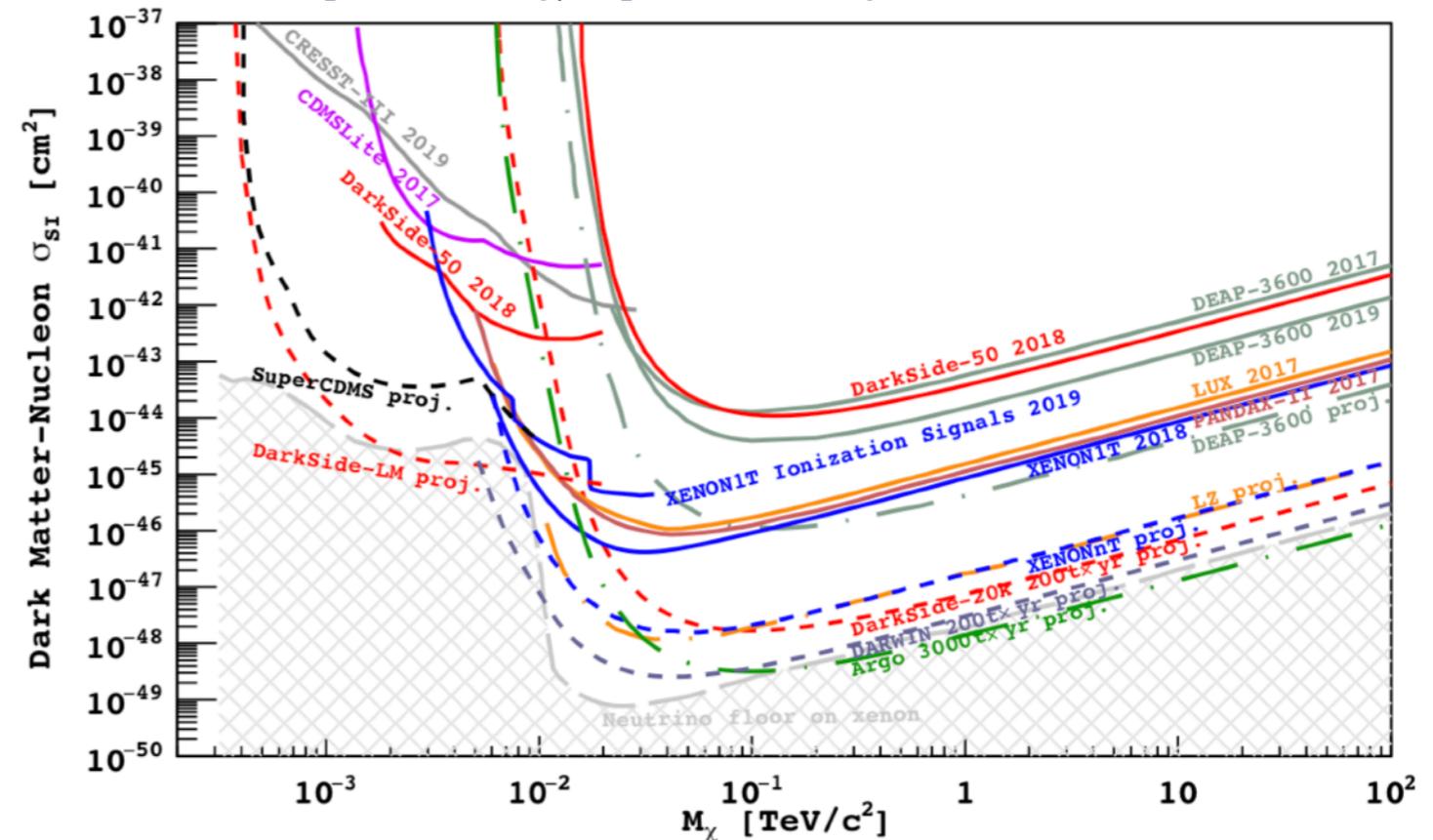


Image from
F. Petricca's talk @ GGI 2019

European Strategy Update Briefing Book



solar/cosmic neutrino scattering xsec may become larger than DM xsec
(but **irreducible backgrounds** haven't stopped anyone so far)



Looking for rarer DM (examples from direct detection)

- Major updates to direct/indirect detection experiments planned:
 - in terms of **detectors**
 - in terms of **reduction of challenging backgrounds**

J. Phys. G43 (2016) 1, 013001& arXiv:1509.08767

European Strategy Update Briefing Book



What if we discover something?
Need complementary experiments!

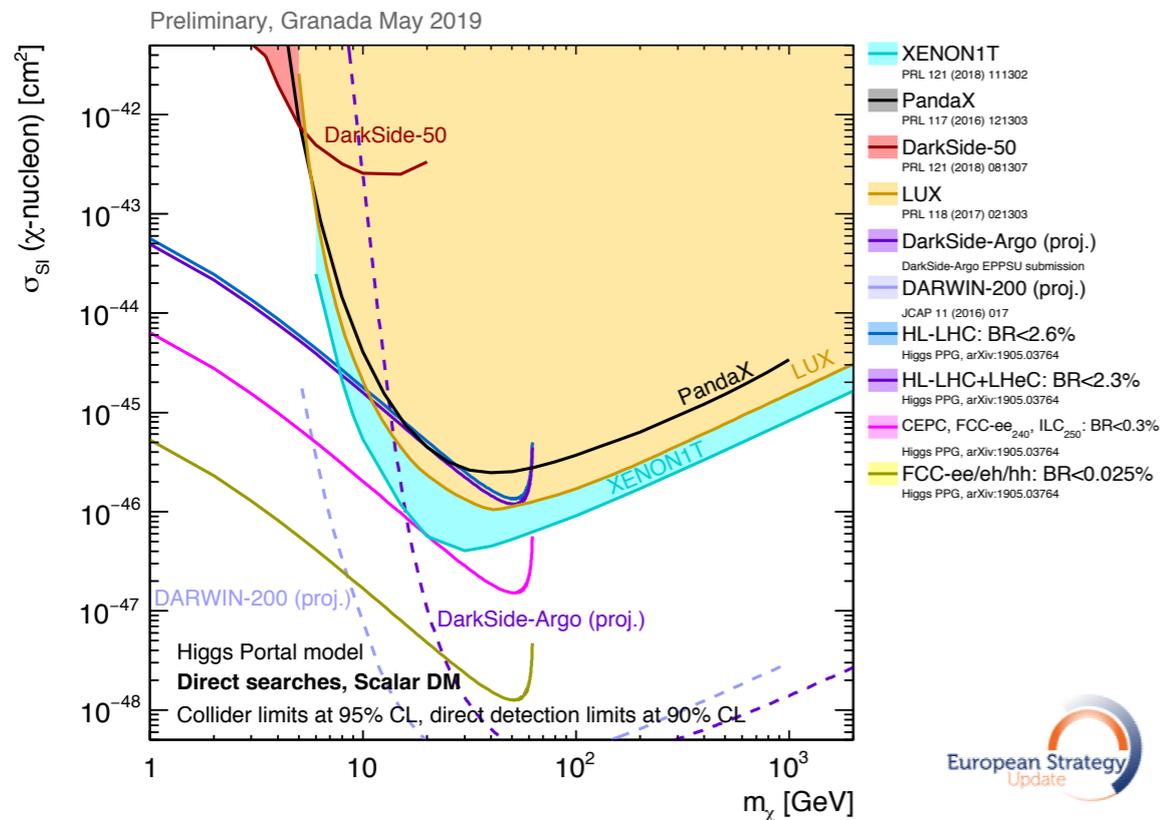
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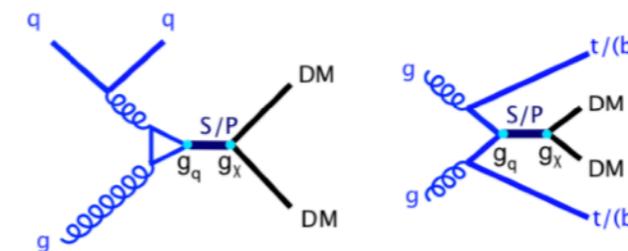
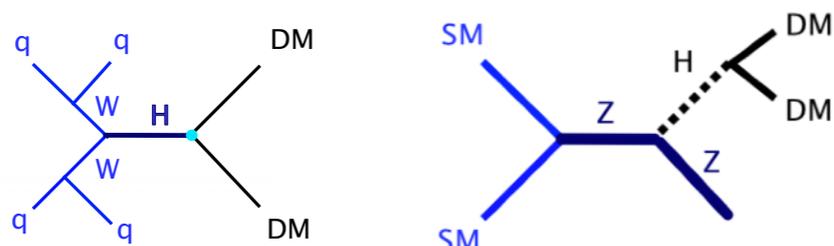
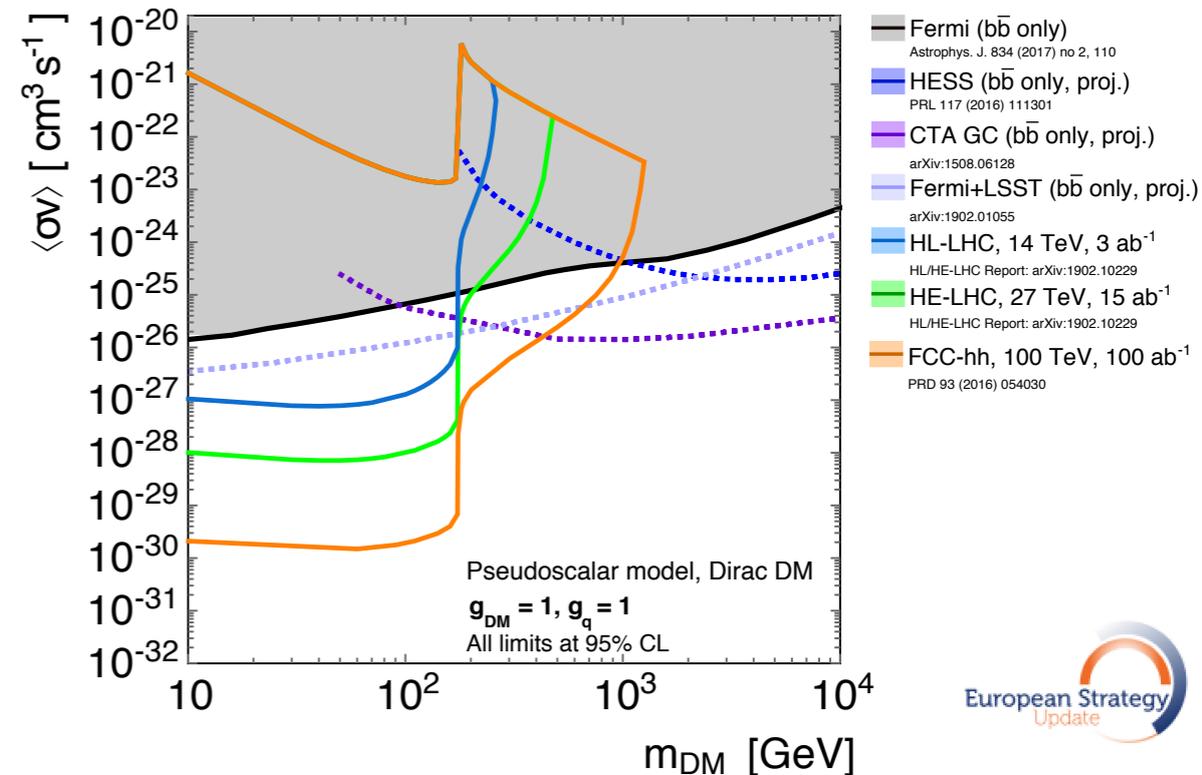
Complementarity so far: within WIMP frameworks

[LHC DM Working Group, European Strategy Update Briefing Book](#), for non-WIMP examples, see [Physics Beyond Colliders report](#)

Invisible Higgs @ colliders and direct detection



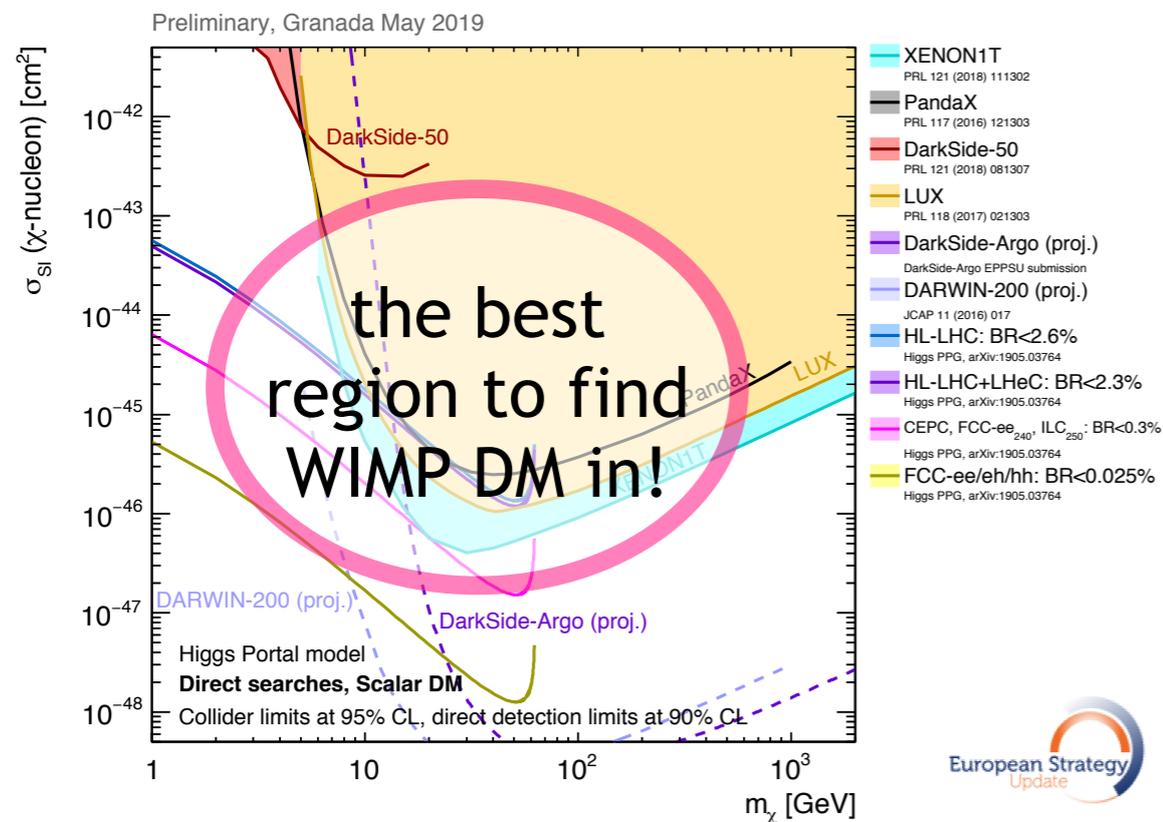
Scalar mediators and indirect detection



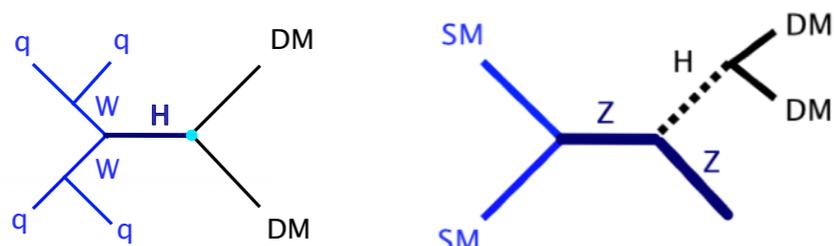
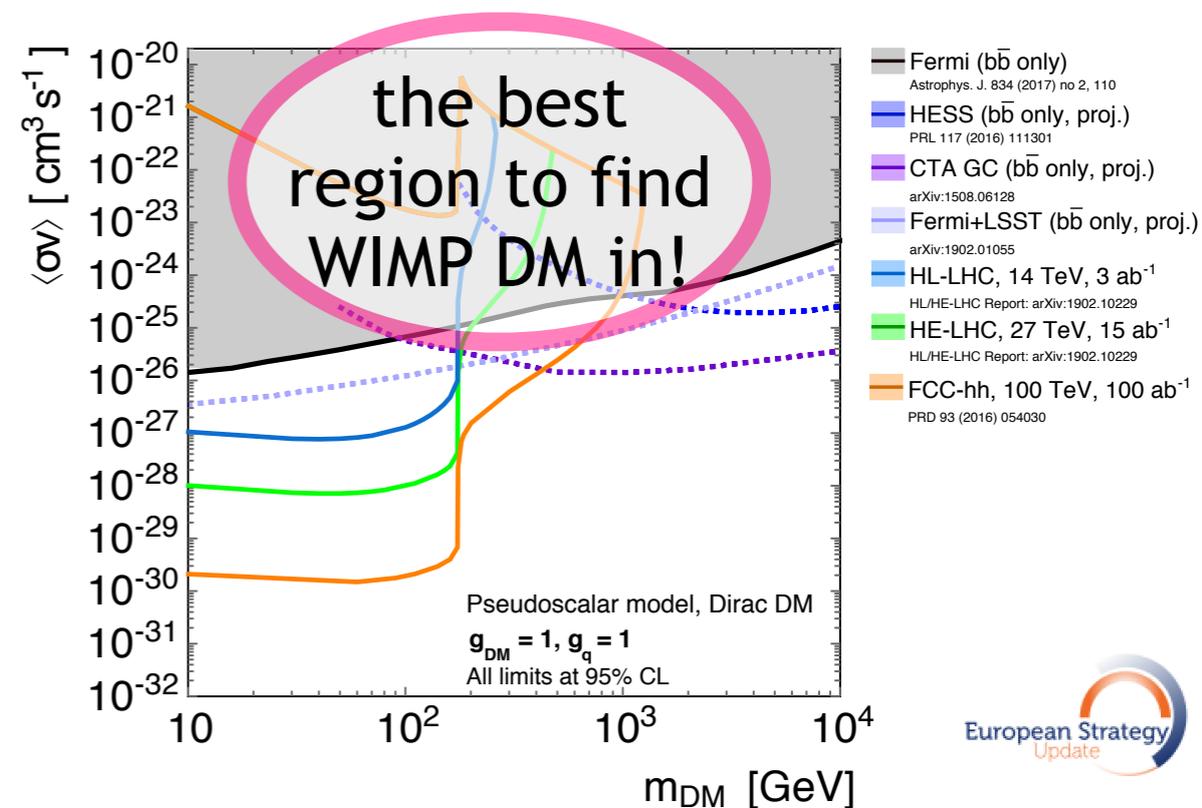
Complementarity so far: within WIMP frameworks

[LHC DM Working Group, European Strategy Update Briefing Book](#), for non-WIMP examples, see [Physics Beyond Colliders report](#)

Invisible Higgs @ colliders and direct detection



Scalar mediators and indirect detection



Health hazard : these plots are only valid for the couplings specified, in the **limited space of a benchmark model!**

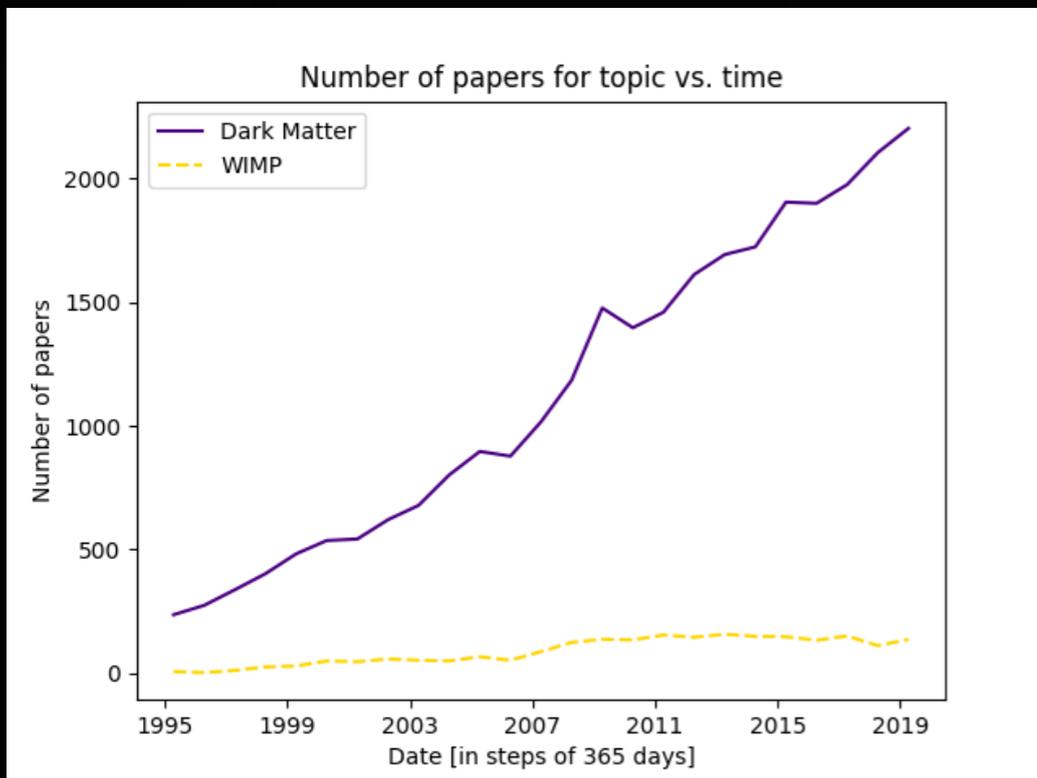
Not to be used to deduce general things like:

"In the next 50 years we will exclude WIMP DM"

"Technique A is better than technique B to find DM"



Last take-home point: look everywhere!



What might we learn from lines of research that are off the beaten track?
They check accepted ideas, always a Good Thing, and there is the chance
Nature has prepared yet another surprise for us.

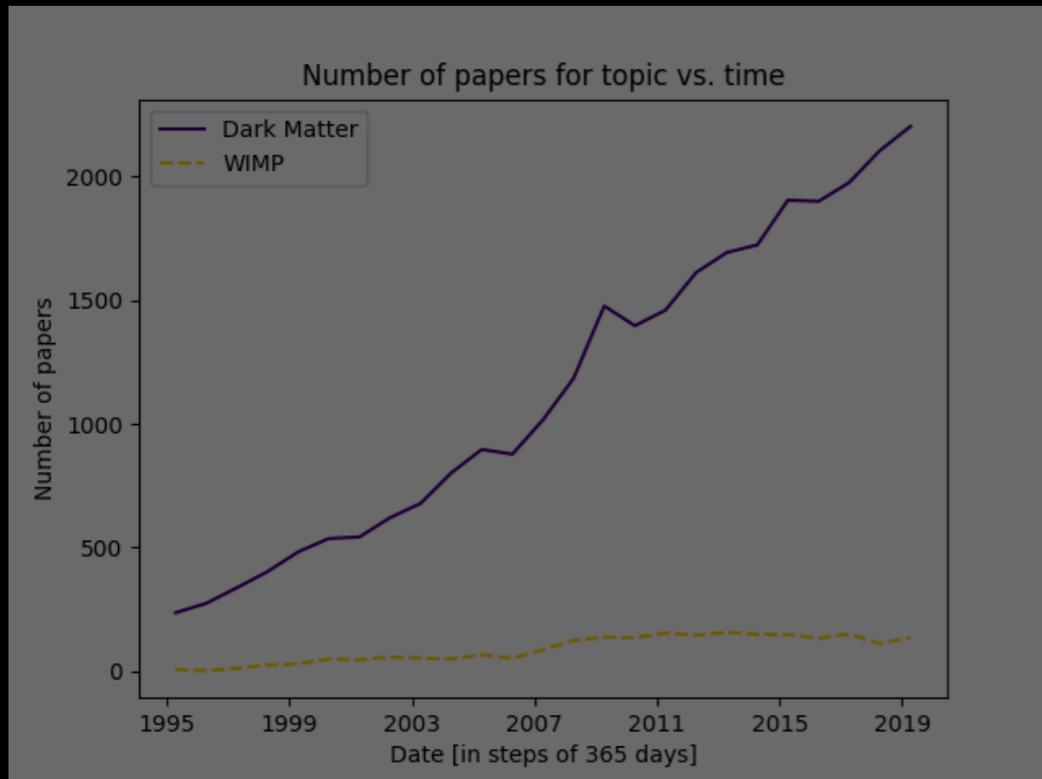
J. Peebles

Are we looking everywhere?

up: stronger interactions

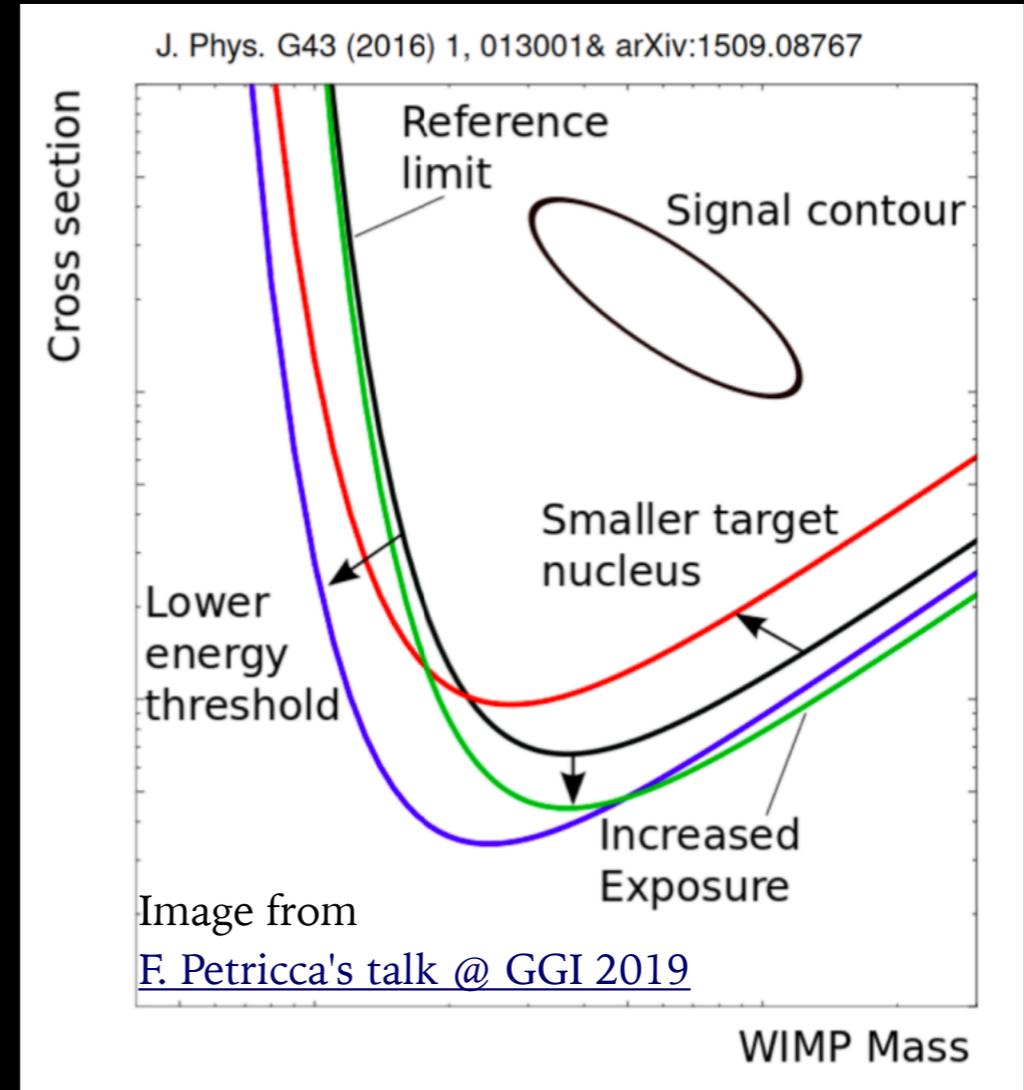
right: more massive objects

left: much lighter DM



What might we learn from lines of research that are off the beaten track? They check accepted ideas, always a Good Thing, and there is the chance Nature has prepared yet another surprise for us.

J. Peebles



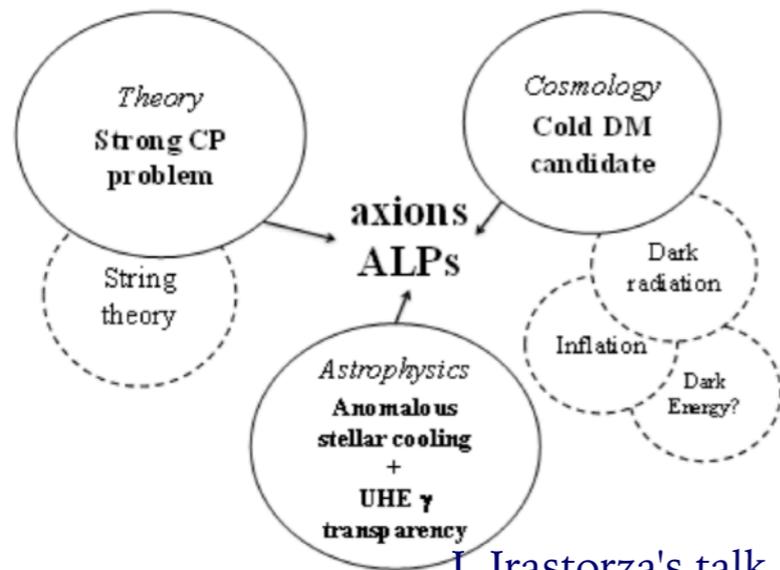
Note: not mentioning sterile-neutrino-like DM for lack of time!

Even lighter DM: axions

SnowMass2021 CF2

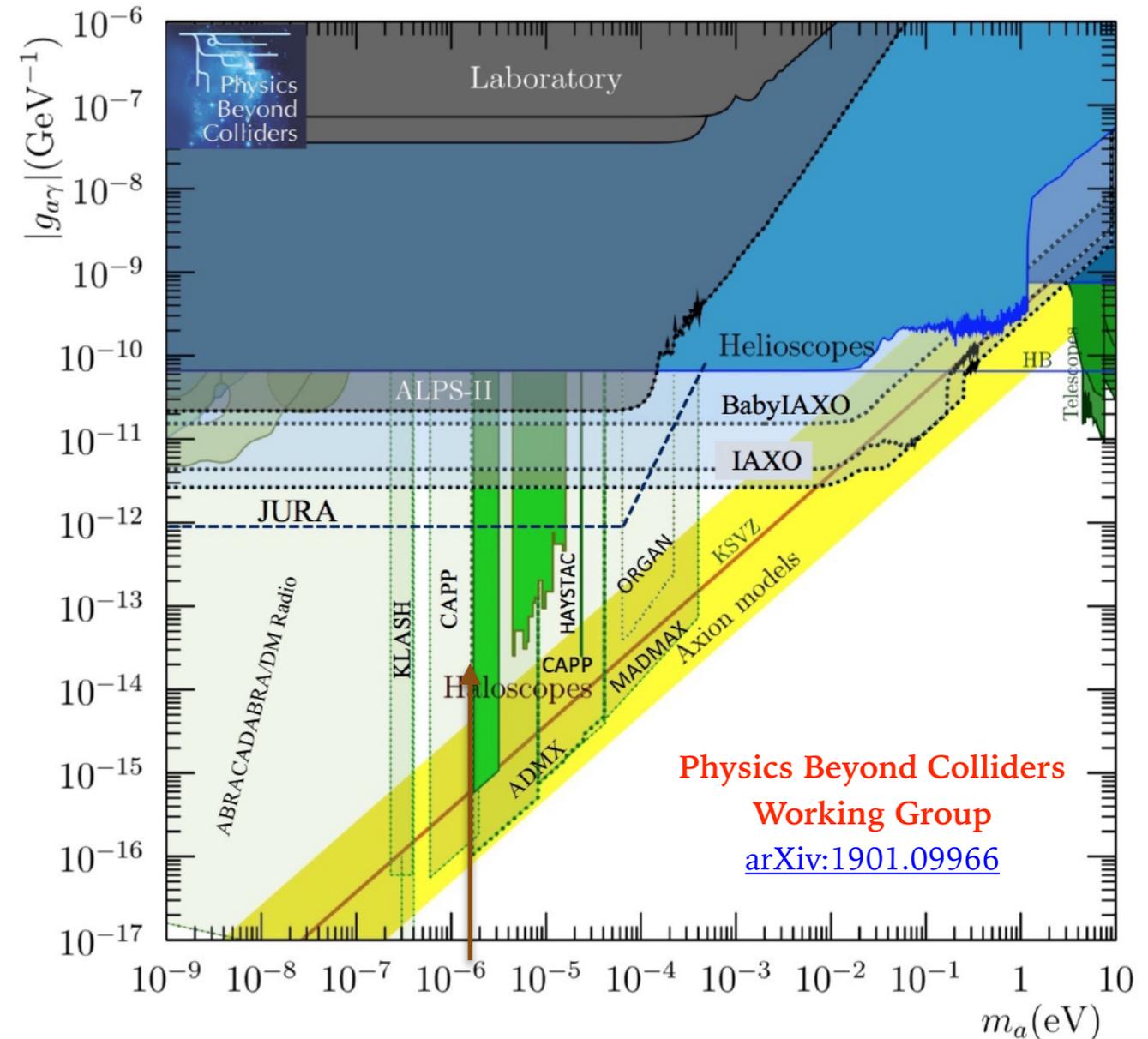
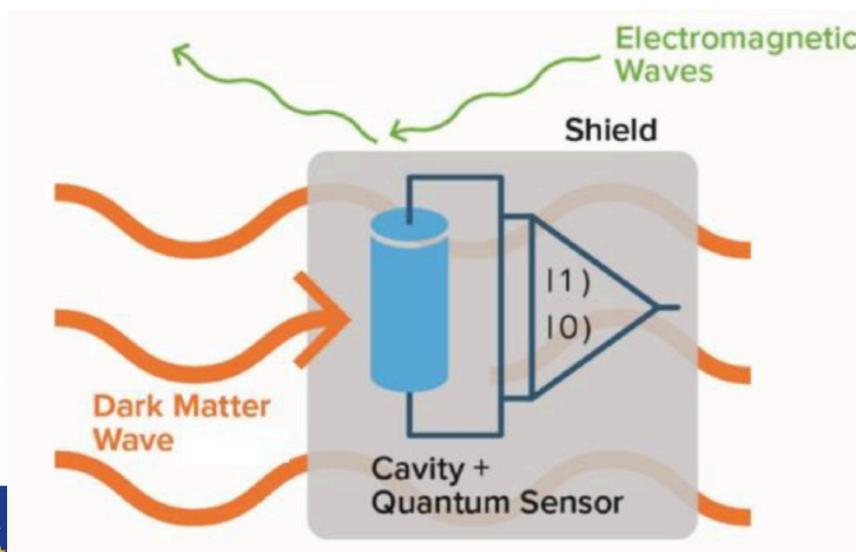
Axions/Axion-Like Particles (ALPs):

example of new particle with inter-field connections, solving more than the DM problem



[I. Irastorza's talk @ EPS-HEP 2019](#)

New technologies (small experiments) now available



Physics Beyond Colliders Working Group
[arXiv:1901.09966](https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.09966)

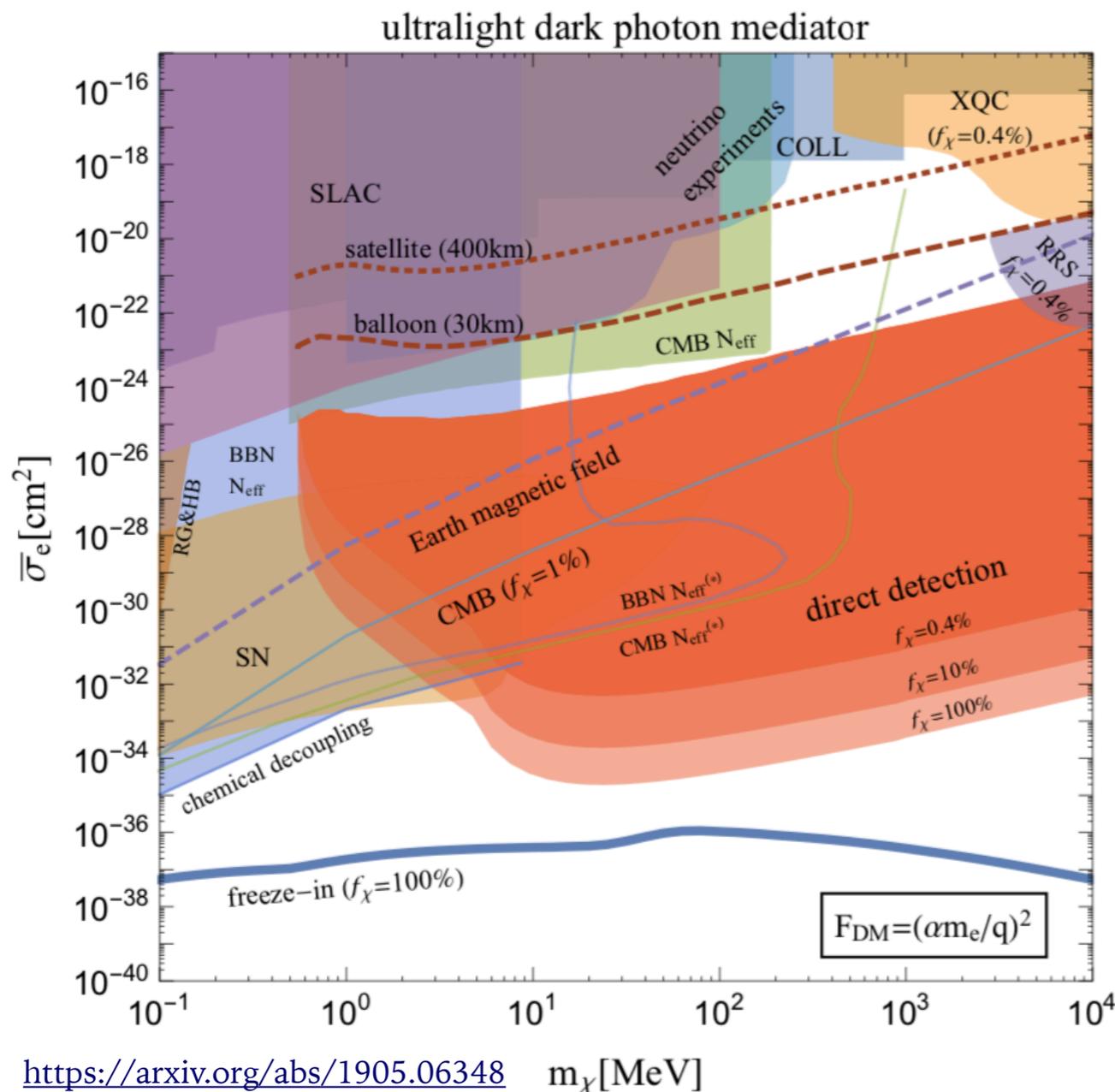
New: sensitivity of haloscopes to "dark matter" axions



Looking *up* (to hints from astrophysics & more)

"Looking up" as a consequence of "looking left":

change of paradigm from
"DM == invisible particles"



potentially low-mass & "strongly interacting" DM particles will

- interact with **detectors**
 - need to take this into account for collider searches!
- interact with **atmosphere & earth**
 - use/send detectors higher up!
- leave **astrophysical signals**
 - Supernova (SN), BBN, CMB...
- be part of more **complex dark sectors**
 - with interesting collider / cosmological signatures!

SnowMass2021 CF1,7

SnowMass2021 EF9

SnowMass2021 TF



Looking *right* (to much more massive objects)

G. Losurdo's talk @ JENAS 2019

Gravitational wave experiments / multimessenger astronomy:

- Revolutionary combination of information on the cosmos
- experiments can shed light on **DM with a wide range of masses**

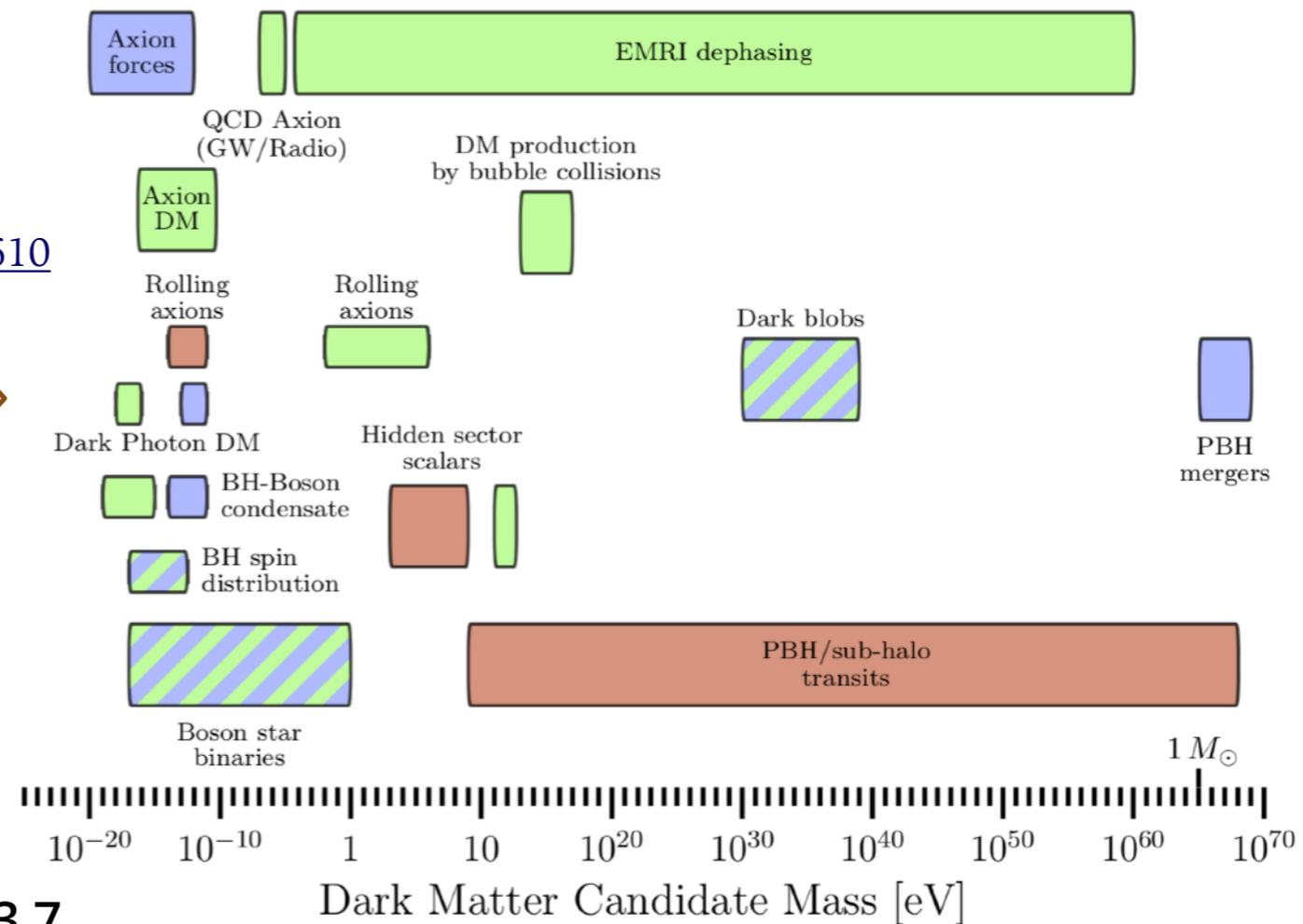
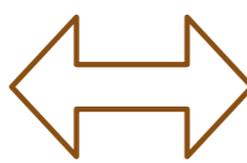
Current Interferometers

Future Interferometers

Pulsar Timing Arrays



[arXiv:1907.10610](https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.10610)



SnowMass2021 CF3,7



Conclusions and take-home points

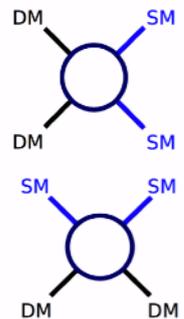
The search for Dark Matter, even for WIMPs alone, is **not yet over...**

...it's the perfect time to **search everywhere, including for the rare & unusual**

much larger datasets,
"precision searches"
at colliders and accelerators

new / improved detectors & techniques,
backgrounds & analysis tools

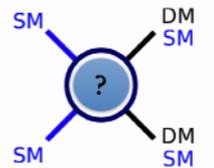
Now and future: essential **physics complementarity** across different experiments



cosmological origin
DD/ID/astrophysics

and

nature of the DM-SM interaction
accelerators / colliders



but also on **tools**, given **shared theory, experimental & computing challenges**



Snowmass: one of the best ways to **help steer**
how DM discoveries will happen in the next 50 years!



Thanks for your attention
 (and thanks to the Early Career scientists who worked
 to produce many of these results)!

**Some of the ATLAS DM results:
 the DARKJETS Team (Lund)**



William Kalderon, Eric Corrigan, Eva Hansen, Per Alexander Ekman (not pictured: Jannik Geisen)

**Direct Detection plots:
 Isabelle John (Lund, now Stockholm)**



with Emma Tolley,
 Antonio Boveia,
 Jocelyn Monroe,
 Maria Benito

**Scalar mediator plots:
 Marco Rimoldi (DESY)**



with Francesca Ungaro, Hideki Okawa, Oleg Brandt

**Indirect Detection plots:
 Boyu Gao (OSU)**

(still working on DM for Snowmass!)



with Emma Tolley,
 Linda Carpenter,
 Antonio Boveia,
 Christoph Weniger

Project acronym	DARKJETS
Project	Discovery strategies for Dark Matter and new phenomena in hadronic signatures with the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider
Researcher (PI)	Caterina Doglioni
Host Institution (HI)	LUNDS UNIVERSITET
Call Details	Starting Grant (StG), PE2, ERC-2015-STG